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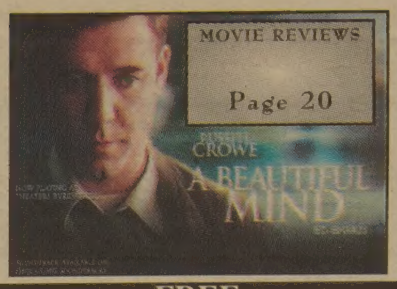

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NIAGARA NEWS

February 15, 2002 — www.niagara-news.com — Volume 32 Issue 11

Colleges prepare for double cohort

By SUSANNA ECKMIRE
Staff Writer

Preparations are underway for the incoming double cohort.

In a news release, the provincial government says that post-secondary institutions are being equipped to meet challenges presented by the elimination of Grade 13.

"We have worked carefully with partners in our publicly funded post-secondary institutions to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure every willing and qualified student continues to find a place in a college or university program," says Dianne Cunningham, Training, Colleges and Universities minister.

The comprehensive plan has three elements.

First, the Ontario government has committed to a $1.8 billion investment in construction programs aimed at ensuring enough space is available for the student influx.

Second, a separate investment of $297.5 million for the upgrading of existing facilities will maximize their efficiency.

Last, another $293 million over several years will allow for the expense of new hires required to accommodate the enlarged student enrolment.

Cunningham says the province is working with the various academic institutions to monitor enrolment data so that there are no unpleasant surprises. Since the actual enrolment numbers are not yet known, the province, as well as the colleges and universities, has to rely on enrolment projections.

The double cohort will inundate colleges and universities province wide commencing September 2003.

Significant and sustained growth in colleges and universities, will rely on enrolment projections.

Continued on page 2

Employees of the Rainforest Cafe modelling swimwear from Bikini Village to the music of California Girls. See pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

Photo by Cassandra Scapillati

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Raising cash with Jungle Fever

By CASSANDRA SCAPILLATI
Staff Writer

The Rainforest Café in association with the Sheraton Convention Centre in Niagara Falls presented its winter/spring charity fashion show in support of Women's Place, a shelter for abused women and their children.

Jungle Fever took place at the convention centre on Feb. 4. The show was produced and choreographed by employees of the Rainforest Café. The models were bussers, cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and managers from the café.

More than 20 local, high-quality clothing stores participated in the event. They gained exposure for their companies and assisted in raising contributions to support Women's Place Nova House Shelter, a shelter for abused women and their children.

The Women's Place of South Niagara Inc. strives to empower abused women and their children by providing safe shelters and intervention services.

Stephanie Badiuk, master of ceremonies and an employee at the Rainforest Café, says for everyone involved (in the show), this has become a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the many women and children that rely upon Women's Place for assistance.

If you are a victim, or you need information or support because a friend or family member is being abused, telephone Women's Place 24-hour crisis line.

In Niagara Falls and Fort Erie area call: (905) - 356-5800. In Welland, Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Pelham areas call: (905) - 788-0113.

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Many Hands Project raises $3,500 at Imax fundraiser for Niagara Support Services

By W. COLIN GIBSON
Staff Writer

Through the support of the Many Hands Project, local partners and fundraising events, Niagara Support Services (NSS) will undertake a one-day renovation blitz of the Kalar Road residence on April 13. The project costs about $100,000.

The lead partner is Canadian Tire Financial Services Limited (CTFSL). Other partners include Niagara Tents and Events, Sherwin Paints, of St. Catharines, Woodington Systems and *The Standard*.

One of the fundraising events was held at the Niagara Falls IMAX on Feb. 7. It included a silent auction and an exclusive showing of the IMAX film Pharaohs of Egypt to which 135 tickets were sold.

Garry Laws, chief executive officer of Niagara Support Services and Niagara Training and Employment Agency Inc., said, "My hats are off to anyone who had anything to do with it (the IMAX fundraiser)." It was "a great job by Niagara College."

Debbie Fitzpatrick, director of CTFSL, gave a $5,000 cheque to Laws to assist in the renovation.

The Many Hands project raised $3,500 from tickets sales and the silent auction.

David Veres, project co-ordinator, said, "It's the third time we've done a silent auction. This is the biggest turnout we've had." Veres is the co-ordinator of the Special Event Management (Post-graduate) program. This year, for the first time, the program's students are working with those of the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program, Recreation and Leisure Services program, the RTV Cogeco Construction Engineering Technology – Architecture program, and the Culinary Management program students at the college's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

"Over 50 local merchants from the area" were present, said Allison Needham, co-chair of the Many Hands Project.

With 15 minutes before the bidding started, a lineup formed outside the theatre. Sean McGrillen, 26, manager of marketing and communications for the Many Hands Project and a Public Relations (Post-graduate) program student, said the fundraiser had already passed last year's total.

"The emphasis is that this is the project's fifth year and it has become an official college project. We've sold over 130 tickets."

"All the money is going to the Many Hands Project (to help the NSS)," said Gillian Lachance, 25, co-chair of the event.

"I'm very excited," said Gabriela Butera, co-chair. Both students were in charge of organizing the event and are students in Niagara College's Special Events Management (Post-graduate) program.

"The Special Events program has done a tremendous job. All the details had been looked after. They're putting on a great show," said Chris Thompson, theatre director.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said he "was very excited. We are working with the many groups within the college for a very strong community event. It also gave the students great work experience."

On April 13, the one-day, heavy labour event at the NSS Kalar Road residence includes more than 100 volunteers working together. The tasks include the removal of existing decks and ramps, shrubs and tree stumps, the removal and stockpiling of the existing interlocking bricks, and extending the fence perimeters.

The centre for people with developmental disabilities will receive a new deck and ramp, a new fire exit and landing ramp, construction of raised flower beds, installation of interlocking bricks paths in the backyard, replacement of the kitchen window, an ornamental pond, designs for a future sun room among other plans.

Fitzpatrick said the individuals at NSS "will receive therapeutic benefits and improved emotional well being from enjoying the fragrance and beauty of the flowers and being outside."

McGrillen said this event gives the students "real-life experience plus education. Niagara College is recognizing its role in the community as a partner."

Speakers included Lachance, Patterson, Fitzpatrick and Laws, with about 200 people in attendance.

Students from the Special Events Management program shared responsibilities this year with the other mentioned programs.

"The change is representative of the success of the project," said Veres.

Patterson said, "This fundraising event is in support of the Many Hand Project, a community-based project, seeking to develop community co-operation and pride through volunteer driven projects aimed at assisting non-profit organizations in the Niagara Region."

The project is in its fifth year. Past project recipients have included the All People Day Care in Welland in 1998, the Resource Association for Teens (RAFT) in St. Catharines in 1999, I Can Therapeutic Riding (I-CAN-T.E.R) in Ridgeway in 2001, and Casa el Norte Transition home in Fort Erie in 2001.

The Many Hands Project is based on a project from 1997 called One Voice. It was a one-day renovation blitz of the Metro East Youth Facility in Scarborough. The project focuses on assisting a community based non-profit organization that needs renovations.

"We couldn't have asked for a better night," said McGrillen.

This was the first of two fundraising events. The second is a trivia night to be held on March 8, at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their help for the NSS project can call (905) 735-2211 extension 7734.

To the left are the many items up for auction at the Many Hands Project Fundraiser last Thursday at IMAX Niagara Falls. The crowd attendance was heavy 20 minutes after the doors opened.

Photo by W. Colin Gibson

Universities, colleges being equipped to meet recruiting challenges faced by elimination of Grade 13, three elements

Continued from page 1

The skill sets that workplaces are requiring of workplace entrants, as well as the demographic growth in the 18 to 24 age group, are additional elements calling for education upgrades, identified in the province's double cohort Web update.

Niagara College, however, won't be subjected to the brunt of the double cohort issue.

"We don't have the same growth in the high school population as, say, Toronto does," says Bonnie Rose, Niagara College's vice-president academic. She is acting president in the temporary absence of college President Dan Patterson, who is completing his doctoral degree.

Regarding the student influx, Rose says Niagara College is on the ball. "We've been planning and developing for a long time.

"Our expansion of facilities happened earlier than at most colleges," says Rose. "We still have capacity from that expansion, plus, of course, we have the new expansion at the Glendale campus (in Niagara-on-the-Lake)."

Rose says that Niagara College could have admitted another 400 students this year. "We have room to grow."

Correction

In the Feb. 8, 2002, edition of *Niagara News* (Vol. 32 Issue 10), on page 1, incorrect information appeared in the report on International Development Week.

The photography exhibit and contest were held in the international office — S102.

It is the policy of Niagara News to correct errors of fact. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Free condoms, chocolate, fun for all

By CHRISTINA COLLI
Staff Writer

With condoms and Winnie the Pooh valentines in hand, Student Administrative Council (SAC) brought sex information with a smile to the Welland campus.

SAC at the Welland campus held Sexual Awareness day Wednesday.

Students making their way through the main hallway noticed a colourful booth set up in front of the new Student Gathering Centre. Information pamphlets about birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and general sexual health were made available amidst complimentary Valentine's Day candy and free condoms.

Sexual awareness bags packed with condoms, a T-shirt, an assault whistle and other goodies were gone within the first few minutes the booth was open, says Christopher Newman, vice-president of student events at the Welland campus.

"Any event we organize we don't put the focus on the information side. It's more about interacting with students. We try not to make it boring," Newman says.

Students had the opportunity to fill out ballots and write an anonymous Valentine's wish to be eligible to win a teddy bear, gift certificates to the restaurant Don Coyote's Market, a Body Shop sensual gift pack and the very last two charity ball tickets. The Valentine wishes were then hung on a tree. Some wishes read, "I wish my girlfriend would let me have a threesome. I wish women were less complicated. I wish to be bitten by the love bug. I wish guys weren't assholes. I wish for continuous friendship. I wish for lots of happiness and lots of love."

"I think, at the college, to have a Sexual Awareness Day is important. I think it'd be naïve to think the majority of the college isn't sexually active," says Karen Brown, vice-president of student affairs. "I think through our Sexual Awareness booth, Valentine's Day Wish Tree and the Dating Game, student council is raising sexual awareness in a non-offensive way. Sexuality can be a touchy subject."

Andrew Hanes, SAC student representative, hosted The Dating Game at After Hours pub along with help from Welland campus SAC President Jeff Dutcher. Eight students participated in the traditional style dating game. Where one individual sat aside and three eligible contestants were asked different questions to see who'd be the most suitable match.

"There was a good response from the audience, and a lot of laughter from both the participants and the audience," said Hanes. Prizes were gift certificates for Don Coyote's, gift certificates for Cineplex Odeon and consolation prizes were SAC sexual awareness bags.

"With any kind of event, we don't know how it's going to turnout. Today was the best-case scenario," Newman said. "Everyone was appreciative of the free condoms and willing to sign the valentines. (This was) one of the first events that every single member of SAC was involved with planning and delivery. That made it all the more fun for the students and student council. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. Everyone who's come by today has smiled and that's a good feeling."

(Top photo) Student Administrative Council's Sexual Awareness booth and Valentine's Day Wish Tree set up in front of the Student Gathering Centre. (Above photo) Gillan Biggar, a student in the General Arts and Science program, fills out a ballot to have a chance to win one of many prizes. Trojan and Lifestyles condoms were handed out.

Photos by Christina Colli

Niagara College students serve 'fantastic' food

By W. COLIN GIBSON
Staff Writer

"The food was fantastic," said David Podetz, of St. Catharines.

He was referring to the delicacies cooked and served by the Niagara College Culinary-program students at the Many Hands Project fundraising event at IMAX on Feb. 7 in Niagara Falls.

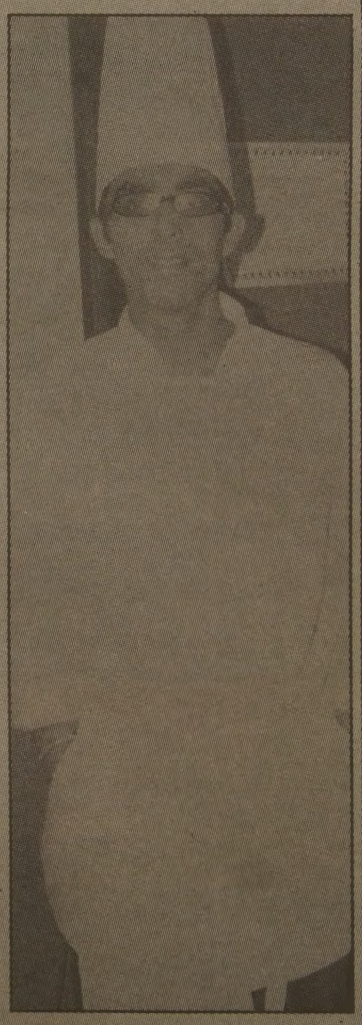
The fundraiser is to support needed renovations at Niagara Support Services (NSS) Kalar Road residence. The NSS provides various services to individuals with developmental disabilities, including pre-school programs, family support programs, and recreational programs. The Kalar Road residence has been in operation since 1978.

Madhav, one of many cooks, in his second term of Hotel Management Services program, explained what was on the menu.

The foods included were humus and pita bread, beef sticks or "steak-on-a-stick," mushroom and cheese quiches, spring rolls with spicy sausages, roast chicken crab cakes, chicken cakes, pork cakes, and cheese and crackers everywhere.

Chris Thompson, theatre director, said, "The food was outstanding, as always."

Louise Broadbent-Andersen was at the punch bowl all night dishing out punch. "The punch has ginger ale, orange juice, pineapple juice, 5 Alive, lemon-lime drink mix, and apricots."



Madhav is one of the many cooks in the Culinary Management program.

Photo by W. Colin Gibson

Carroll keynote speaker for inaugural awards

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

Niagara College is making sure the region won't be left in the dark in the rapid-paced information age spotlighted in recent years.

Circle March 5 on your calendar, as Niagara will be one of many sponsors at the first annual e-Niagara Conference and Web Awards.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Jim Carroll, an author and co-author of 32 books dealing with business and the Internet. Carroll focuses on topics such as financial industry, health care and education and will be talking more in depth about opportunities within the wired world.

Carroll has been writing and speaking about issues on the Internet since 1982 and is known for his insight about and motivation for businesses in the economic world.

The e-conference and web awards will give businesses in the Niagara region a chance to see how technology can help spice up their business. Various workshops and sessions will be held during the conference program, including building and growing your Web site for success, community leadership through technology and learning Internet language and trends.

This event will take place at the Four Points Sheraton in Thorold and commence at 7:30 a.m.

For more information on the conference go to: www.eniagaraconference.com or call 905-735-8085.

e-Niagara
Conference and Web Awards

Regardless of age, everyone benefits

Big Brothers program's mentors help youth take 'right path to adulthood'

By NIKKI MILLION
Staff Writer

On hearing the name Big Brother, what do we automatically think of? A poor little boy in need of a father's guiding hand?

There are an infinite number of benefits for those involved in the Big Brothers program. Whether they are five or 55, male or female, the program today offers rewards to both.

Started in 1903, the Big Brothers program was originally developed for boys who were in trouble with the law, or had the potential of being in trouble with the law, according to Gregory Whelan, executive director of the Welland/Pelham/Port Colborne area Big Brothers and Sisters Organization.

"That has long since changed," he says. "The program now gets children involved with mentors to help them get on the right path to adulthood."

The Big Brothers and Sisters program works with children between the ages of six and 18 who are primarily from mother-led, single-parent families. "The majority of kids are just normal, happy, healthy kids who just happen not to have a direct male influence in their lives."

He states that volunteers, who must be over the age of 18, come from all walks of life. "We have college students, police officers, teachers, factory workers — all kinds of people." Whelan, who in addition to working for the program has been a Big Brother several times, declares being a Big Brother is a mutually beneficial experience for the volunteer and the Little Brother.

"I hear that volunteers are having as much, if not more, fun doing things than the Little Brother." Whelan says many volunteers are doing things they had long since put behind them, such as camping, hiking or taking long bicycle rides.

"People, as they grow older, get more sedentary. They become couch potatoes, bumps on a log," he laughs.

Aside from the time a child spends with a mentor, Little Brothers are eligible for many scholarship and bursary funds, including the CIBC Youth Vision Scholarship and the Hockey Life bursary, which assists a child wishing to play hockey to pay for registration and offsets equipment costs.

> ***'The majority of kids are just normal, happy, healthy kids ...'***
> ***— Gregory Whelan***

"All current and former Little Brothers have the opportunity to apply for bursary funds, which will help them in their educational pursuits for the years to come. ... This opens up opportunities for these kids."

"We have one boy, currently in Grade 11, who received a scholarship that will give him $4,000 a year while in college or university and a job at a YMCA if he decides he wants it. This is a huge thing," he says excitedly.

Whelan gives credit to Tim Hortons storeowners for helping the program. Through donations Tim Hortons has helped register nine children for camp for 10 days in Tanemagosh, N.S., all expenses paid. "These are kids that would probably not have this kind of opportunity in their lives otherwise."

Whelan says although Big Brothers is a volunteer-based organization, it still needs to raise quite a bit of money for operating costs.

"We need to raise $89,000 in the Welland/ Pelham/ Port Colborne division alone. We are mainly volunteer based, but have several professionals on staff to make sure that the safety and well-being of the children are being taken care of."

The United Way supplies just under 40 per cent of the organization's funding. The remainder must be raised through charity fundraisers, such as the upcoming Bowl For Kids Sake and various types of lottery gaming.

BIG BROTHERS OF SOUTH NIAGARA INC.

"Our goal for this event is $15,000. I don't know if we'll make it, but we are surely going to try," He says these kinds of events give them an opportunity to thank their sponsors and the community. "It's a fun time, and it lets people know what we might be doing over the next year."

"As little as one hour a week can make a difference in not only a child's life, but also the organization," he urges. "Bottom line is you're gonna have fun."

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automotivation

Niagara student one of four scholarship winners

By ADAM BOGLE
Staff Writer

A Niagara College student is one of the four-member elite group who have won scholarships from the Automotive Industries Association (AIA) of Canada.

Mike Vandervliet, 19, of Dunnville, Ont., a first-year Motive Power Operations — Automotive program student, is the recipient of the Arthur Paulin Automotive Aftermarket Award. His prize, received last month, is a $700 scholarship.

The award was established by the AIA to provide financial assistance to worthy students who wish to further their education in the automotive field. Its goal is to promote awareness of the aftermarket industry, promote professionalism and advance knowledge within the industry.

Applicants are evaluated using a scoring system based on a letter, an instructor's reference, the demonstration of leadership and the applicant's academic achievement.

Vandervliet graduated from high school last February. He says he wanted to get straight into the field and do an apprenticeship but he couldn't find anyone to sponsor him. His high school guidance counsellor then suggested he enroll in Niagara's post-secondary Motive Power Operations — Automotive program. He was enrolled by May.

He says he wasn't thinking about college back then.

"Everything went really quick." Looking back on it, Vandervliet says, it was for the best. "It's easier to learn now than come back to school and specialize."

Vandervliet says the transition from high school to college was easy. "It was kind of refreshing." He says his high school automotive program was similar to what he experienced at Niagara. He says he gets along with his classmates and his teachers are "excellent."

This was the first scholarship for which he applied, Vandervliet says. "It was kind of a surprise ... obviously someone has some faith in me."

He explains that having extra money will help pay for his tuition, considering he didn't have a lot of time to financially prepare for college.

His professors are very supportive of him. John Johnson teaches Vandervliet's braking systems and computer applications courses. He recommended him for the scholarship.

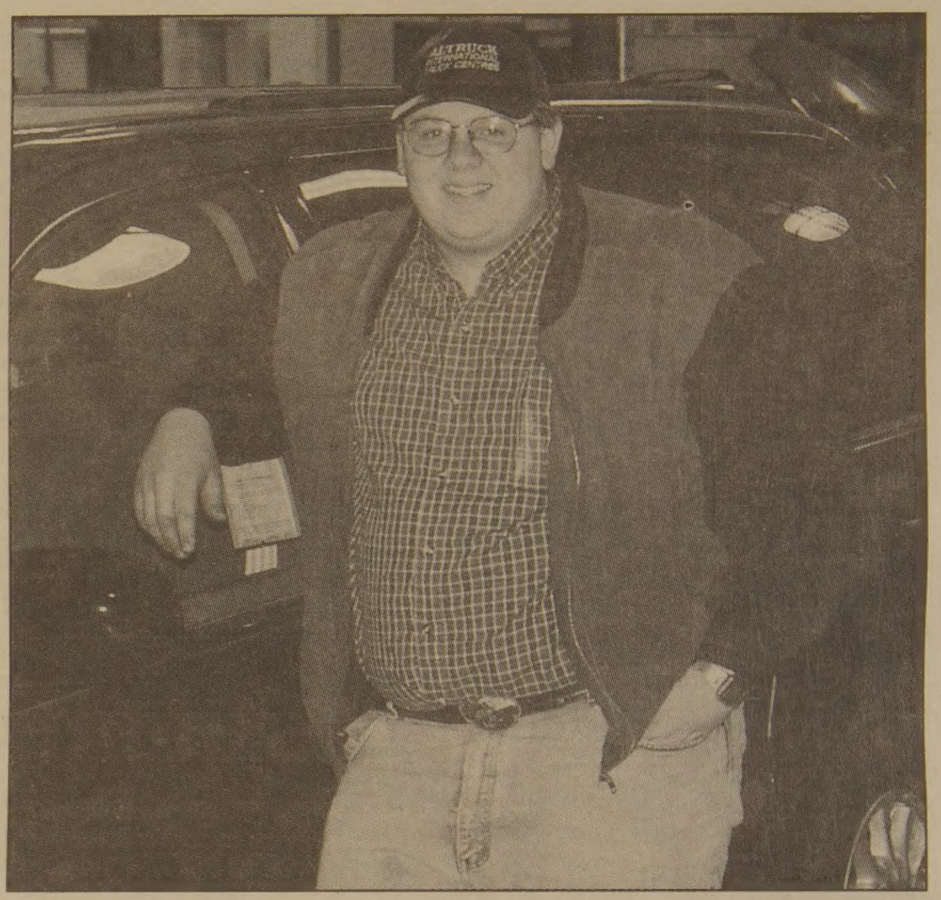
"He has some natural ability and he works hard to improve the skills he already has. It's nice to see a good student rewarded."

There is some humour in the relationship he has with his teachers. Harry Lewis, another one of Vandervliet's professors, says, "It's good that he's going to be a mechanic because he's driving a car he'll always have to fix."

Vandervliet says he likes being in the post-secondary program because it allows him to focus his skills. He says he wants to specialize in car electronics, onboard computer and diagnostics.

After graduating, Vandervliet wants to do his apprenticeship as an automotive service technician at Niagara College.

"I'd like to do it here ... it'd be comfortable. It's great ... the teachers are great."



Mike Vandervliet, Arthur Paulin Automotive Aftermarket Award winner, stands next to a jeep in one of the garages at the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the Welland campus.

Photo by Adam Bogle

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editorials

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College.
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www.niagara-news.com

Scandal turns into goldmine for skaters

There's a silver lining when it comes to Olympic figure skating. Just ask Canadian pairs skaters Jamie Salé and David Pelletier, who skated a flawless performance Monday, only to be thrown into a judging scandal that has most of the world up in arms.

It didn't take long before Canada was in the spotlight and an international committee was called in to further investigate the judging.

It was in the first week of the 1998 Nagano Olympic Winter Games in Japan that Canada was up in smoke as snowboarder Ross Rebagliati was briefly stripped of his gold medal after traces of marijuana were found in his system.

It was the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that investigated Rebagliati's "compromised" performance. Now it's the International Skating Union (ISU) that will hold an inquiry into the judging of the pair's long program.

It seems the investigations and inquiries that the IOC and the ISU issue are useless, as they don't do anything except add fuel to the media's fire.

Rebagliati got his gold medal back because the substance found in his system was a deterrent rather than a performance enhancer. Even though he was cleared at his inquiry, a dark cloud looms over his head to this day.

Salé and Pelletier will not get a gold medal because the judges decided that the Russian pair, of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, skated better artistically. The Russian pair's performance contained some blemishes but *that problem won't matter if* the competition is rigged before they skate.

Figure skating lives and dies on the same premise as boxing: the outcome is decided by a higher power. No matter how well the Canadians performed, their perfection will be in vain in the judge's eyes but not in that of their fellow compatriots'.

NBC-TV talk show host Jay Leno alluded to the judging scandal by playing the *Canadian national anthem,* waving our flag and claiming that Salé and Pelletier were the "true golden champions."

AARON FOSTER

Eves only candidate to stick to his guns

As the party election of a new premier nears, the provincial Progressive Conservatives tear at each other more voraciously with every debate.

On Tuesday, the third of five debates took place in London, Ont., with the four combatants ganging up on the fifth ,former finance minister Ernie Eves.

Much to the delight of Liberal and New Democratic Party onlookers, the party nears implosion with the final gavel of every debate.

The verbal sparring, which started last month at a decidedly slow pace, has picked up steam in the last few weeks. The candidates are shrugging off the usual shackles of party allegiances, showing some signs of independent thought – a trait lost during Mike Harris's rule – and beginning to exhibit some policies.

Consequently these policies will be the downfall of this party.

Certainly one of the few things Harris did correctly during his stint as premier was to take a page from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's rule book – run a tight ship.

Harris tolerated very little when it came to mistakes and ran a disciplined party. Sure, there were some foul ups, but be sure they were swiftly dealt with.

Now, all candidates except Eves are backtracking on policy that some nine months ago they stood behind and supported wholeheartedly.

They want Ontario voters to know they are now teachers' friends, and want to start listening to the problems and issues they have.

They have conceded that, perhaps, the Grade 9 curriculum is too hard and needs revision.

The nail in the coffin for this party is going to be its revised stance on the tax credit to private schools, something Harris and his cabinet refused to budge on and stood vehemently behind.

Eves is the sole candidate who thinks perhaps Harris didn't go far enough or hard enough to the right (a terrifying prospect at best) and has said outright that he intends to cut more taxes and retool provincial health care.

While this would surely put Ontario in fiscal ruin and demoralize the population, the 56-year-old must be respected for sticking to his guns and not backtracking on everything the PCs have done in the last eight years.

GARY EDGAR

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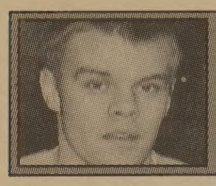
speakeasy

Boarding between concrete, snow



By WARD BARRETT
Staff Writer
Column

Snowboarding, in its second showing at the Winter Olympics, has become the major draw for young people to this year's games.

The predecessor to, and major influence on, this sport is skateboarding. This is evident in downhill and slalom with the introduction of the first snowboard, the "Snurfer." The disciplines quickly transformed the fledgling winter pursuit.

Why then has skateboarding remained under the radar of public perception and not been cast into contention as an Olympic sport?

The answer is simple. Skateboarding evolved, much like snowboarding, into a game of aerial manoeuvres and tricks, but strayed from the constraints of organized sport to the streets, where individuality and improvisation ran rampant, and the ability to be judged slipped away slowly into pure artistic expression.

Contests are held, ranking participants through money earnings, but most professional skaters stray from that in the interest of purity and unfettered individuality.

The X-Games and the Vans Triple Crown Series of competitions are major events in the skate season, but there is little importance placed on these events since the focus is on product positioning and catering to the teenage marketing group.

In fact, most of the commercials run during these televised events often run alarmingly long compared to actual contest coverage.

Nik Frietas, photographer and writer for Thrasher magazine, the foremost skateboarding publication, says the attempts of the mainstream media to "organize, water down, and make understandable" the sport of skateboarding are what makes it a bad candidate for Olympic contention.

In fact, it's the individuality of the skateboarder and his anti-hero status that draw the young participant, rather than the possibility of being a revered buzzer-beater, stuck in the ever-deepening ranks of obscurity within the roster of a national team.

This is the reason the four-wheeled board hasn't made its break and become palatable like its offshoot, snowboarding.

In time, the professional skateboarder may accept his role in international competitive athletics, but for now, the heroes ride snow, not concrete.

Global warming doing nothing but teasing

By DUSTY JACKSON
Staff Writer
Column

Well, I guess I better put my flip-flops and my Hawaiian shirts back into storage.

Where the heck did all of this snow come from?

Just as I was praising global warming for a nice short, mild winter, God opened up the skies and dumped another ton of that cold white stuff on me; God was laughing at me the whole time, I'm sure of it.

It never fails. The sun comes out, temperatures start to rise, and all of the snow melts.

I look around and see people driving around with their windows down and people in T-shirts playing ball. Just when I think winter is finally over, the blizzard rolls in. I don't even know why it surprises me anymore because it happens every year.

I hate winter. I mean I really hate winter. What is a guy like me supposed to do in the winter except freeze on the way to school?

I don't play hockey, I don't ski, and tobogganing lost its lustre about 10 years ago. I don't have a snowmobile, so I can't tear around town in the middle of the night and wake everyone up, as the people with snowmobiles do.

I used to look forward to snowboarding in the winter, but a bum shoulder put an end to that hobby.

My new winter hobby is watching snow pile up in my driveway and then wishing it wasn't there. I haven't gone out and shoveled once. If you wait long enough, it will blow away or melt. Besides, I don't have a car.

You can call me unCanadian if you want, but that's simply not true. I love Canada.

I couldn't think of anywhere else that I would rather spend my summers, but until this snow melts you can find me under my duvet with the heat on high. Just don't blame me if you get stuck in my driveway.

Courage key in surviving intimidating real world

By NIKKI MILLION
Staff Writer
Column

"Give me somewhere to stand, and I will move the earth."

These words by the philosopher Archimedes were words that I came across in my last year of high school and vowed to live up to.

Now that I am three weeks away from leaving my cosy nest that is college, I realize that I don't know if I'm strong enough, or confident enough, to try to live up to that promise I made to myself.

I figure, hey, you were 18 when you made that promise, what did you know? I was naïve, idealistic and the world was my playground. Unfortunately, I never bothered to look around that playground to see just how crowded it really was.

As every day passes, stealing away my time here, my stomach slowly creeps higher and higher into my throat. My hands are shaking. I have difficulty sleeping. I have dreams of starting a job and not remembering how to turn on a computer.

I'm being forced to take off my rose-coloured glasses. Correction, they are being ripped off my face and smashed into a million tiny pieces.

As I write this, a song by Blink182 plays on the radio; the lyrics catch my attention: "Forever, let's make this last forever."

If only we could. It's not that I don't want to move on and get my life started. It's just that I have a hard time believing it's time already. It seems, just yesterday, I was starting my first year of high school, a kid with huge stars in her eyes. I couldn't wait to be old enough to move away from home and live my life.

Now I am 22 and about to start my life. I'm going to have to join the real world, the ADULT world, with an ADULT job.

I wonder if I've learned all that I could learn, or if I'm using my knowledge to the best of my ability. Am I ready to jump head-first into these unknown waters?

Then I remember another quote. "Courage is the thing. All goes if courage goes." These words ring loudly in my ears. I know that I can muster up the courage I need. I've been prepared for this moment my entire life, and if I can't do it now, I'll never do it.

I need to make myself another promise, one that allows me to be scared, but also tells me that I can do whatever I set my mind to.

Maybe I won't live up to the promise I made to my younger self, but I will at least try to shift the earth just a bit.

Journalists, including those in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, are taught that their reporting must be balanced, fair and as objective as possible. That rule must also exist for columns written by reporters. In columns, the feelings and opinions of reporters are welcome, but balance, fairness and objectivity must never be disregarded or treated lightly. Our columns, which are clearly identified as such, do not reflect the opinions or feelings of the Niagara College administration or the management of the Niagara News. Columns reflect the opinion of only one person: the writer.

Lunar New Year welcomes the Year of the Horse

Xin Nian Kuai (Happy New Year) until Feb. 27

By JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Feb. 12 saw the end of the Year of the Snake and the beginning of the Year of the Horse.

While the Lunar New Year is celebrated across Asia, dates vary by country. It usually takes place in late January or early February.

The most well-known New Year is celebrated by China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

This year marks 4699 by the Chinese calendar. Festivities last for 15 days. There are many beliefs and customs carried out now.

This is a time for renewal, reunion, eating and respecting ancestors. What you do and how you act during this time are believed to determine what kind of a year you will have.

While traditions vary, common themes in the Lunar New Year include family togetherness, cleaning house and red envelopes of money.

By cleaning the house it's believed misfortune is swept away and room is made for good luck. The house must be cleaned by New Year's Day because good fortune could be swept away by sweeping and dusting after that time.

Debts are to be paid by this time and nothing should be lent or you'll end up lending things all year.

The Chinese people set firecrackers off on New Year's Eve as a way of sending out the old year and welcoming the new. At midnight, every door and window in the house is opened to let the old year out.

Other beliefs include that washing your hair on New Year's Day washes away good luck and wearing red indicates a bright future.

Children and unmarried friends are given lai see, little red envelopes with dollar bills inside as symbols of good fortune.

While many Chinese people today may not believe the superstitions, the traditions and customs of the Lunar New Year are still practiced.

While it's too late not to wash your hair, be sure to wish everyone a Xin Nian Kuai (Happy New Year) until Feb. 27.

'Lifelong love for education' at Niagara

By RYAN SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

Bonnie Rose, Niagara College's vice-president academic, left her native home of Colorado in 1970 to come to Canada. She has studied in many different fields. Rose studied music at the University of Indiana for two years. She studied at Carleton University in Ottawa for two years as a full-time student and one year part time, majoring in psychology. Although not having an under-graduate degree, she was accepted into a master's program at York University in Toronto in environmental studies. She also has a doctorate in sociology with a focus on organizations from York.

When I try to put myself in a position of being a student, I think of the things that might have made me say before that, "Well, what am I going to do and what's happening? What's exciting?"

When a job at Niagara College was brought to her attention, she was asked to apply. Because of her "lifelong love for education" and knowledge of the region and the college, the idea was too appealing to pass up so she was "really pleased" that she was a successful candidate, says Rose.

Rose is assuming most, if not all, of Dan Patterson's responsibilities while the college president is completing his doctoral degree through April.

Question: In comparison with a human life, at what stage is Niagara College and why?

Answer: I think I would put us in about our early 20s. I think we have enough real world experience to be kind of sure of who we are, but we are young enough that we still have vision and energy. We are not set in our ways and we have been around long enough that we can reflect a little bit on change and what's possible. We have had a few hard knocks, so we are a little bit worldwide, so that's why I would put us in our early 20s.

Q: If someone was to approach you and ask, "Why should I come to Niagara College?" what would be your response?

A: I would ask, "What is it you want to do in your life?" I would then speak about the individual programs which most relate to what they want to do. I think we always have to start with where students are coming from. If it were a general question, I would say great programs, great faculty, a medium-size institution. I say that we are in an incredible region where you are kind of rural and, at the same time, you can get to St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Toronto. I would also say with most, if not all, of our programs you will be working with the best equipment, faculty and facilities in any program in your life in the college system.

Q: In all the roles Arnold Schwarzenegger has played in movies, which one would suit Dan Patterson the best and why?

A: I would have to say Twins, because Dan tends to reflect the best in all of us.

Q: Sitting in as president, do you get a temporary pay raise?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: How do you think Team Canada's hockey team will do in the Olympics?

A: I think Canada always has to do the world's best in the Olympics.

Q: Why do you think Dan Patterson chose industry-education partnerships as his thesis topic?

A: Because this is an area where Dan has more expertise than any other college president in the college system, and it is something that he is passionate and knowledgeable about. Those are always really good reasons to choose what to study.

Q: With the moving of the post-secondary programs at the Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC) in Niagara Falls to the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, will the MMC lose some of its identity?

A: No, the MMC is going to have a fabulous new identity as a tourism industry development centre and that we got a $1.7 million grant to assist us in developing. I think the MMC now is going to be the hub of activity for the industry and the college.

Q: If you could be any super hero to make your job easier, which one would it be and why?

A: Wonder Woman. The outfits are neat ... if I could have her body.

Q: Would you have a sidekick?

A: I would rather be Wonder Woman than Xena, the Warrior Princess, but I like Xena's sidekick Gabrielle.

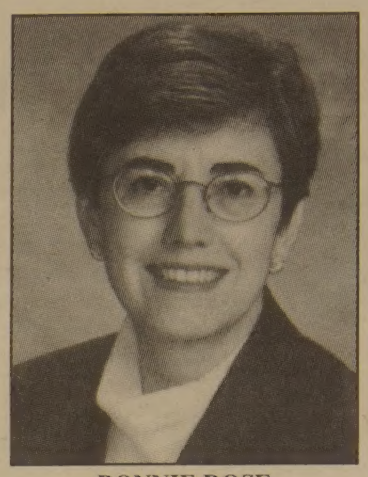
Q: What's next for Niagara College?

A: There is a whole new world of post-secondary education for all of us with applied degrees, with serving the industry. The future is like one door of opportunity after another. The next door is going to be the next opportunity for us.

I think we always have to start with where students are coming from. If it were a general question, I would say great programs, great faculty, a medium-size institution. I say that we are in an incredible region where you are kind of rural and, at the same time, you can get to St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Toronto.

Q: Do you think the Welland campus could use a little facelift?

A: That is in the works. The Welland campus will look very different next fall. The next big exciting thing for Niagara is the expansion at Glendale and the renovations at Welland. The YMCA at the Welland campus will be fabulous.



BONNIE ROSE

What is happening at Niagara is a whole new era for student life at Niagara; I think we see that with the cafeteria. I think we are really starting to come into our own.

When I try to put myself in a position of being a student, I think of the things that might have made me say before that, "Well, what am I going to do and what's happening? What's exciting?" I think that what's next for Niagara is really coming in a whole new era of student life and I can see that in our facilities.

Q: What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

A: This interview. (Laughs)

Reporter's note: (I think Vice-president Rose is hiding something from us.)

Q: Do you enjoy assuming most presidential duties while Dan is gone?

A: I can safely say yes, since it's only been a few days.

Q: What do you do to cope with stress?

A: I shop until I drop and then I veg out and watch TV and read.

Q: The college seems to distribute its money fairly throughout the campuses. Would you like to see it more focused on any particular campus?

A: I think we do a very good job of distributing the money fairly and I'm really, really pleased. I think many people would be surprised to see the development and upgrading that has gone on at Welland. I think many people don't realize what has happened at Welland in the past few years.

Q: In a debate on presidential ethics, who do you think would win: Bill Clinton, George W. Bush or Dan Patterson?

A: I think Dan Patterson would because he wouldn't have to think so hard to get the right answer, and he wouldn't need to take a poll to get the right answers.

Q: If you could switch positions with anyone at the college other than the president, who would it be?

A: No holds barred, even on many days with the president, I would switch positions with a faculty member.

Q: What do you think is the college's best resource?

A: Our students. They're the reason we're here. They're the people who are committing their futures to us.

Q: With the Photonics lab at Niagara College, do you think Niagara will be the first college to equip security with laser rifles?

A: I hope not.

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community contribution

'Extraordinary' partnership aids college

By LAURA LENNIE
Staff Writer

Every business, large or small, soon discovers it has a responsibility not only to its employees and shareholders, but also to the communities that it serves, says Sylvia Kadlick, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation.

Canadian Tire and Canadian Tire Acceptance Limited (CTAL) have been key contributors to many Niagara College initiatives. CTAL changed its name effective Jan. 1 and is now known as Canadian Tire Financial Services Limited (CTFSL).

"Canadian Tire believes that support for education is one of those responsibilities. Well-educated students, especially in courses that apply directly to Canadian Tire's staffing needs, create a pool of potential employees, both under the co-op program and on a full-time basis. And these are employees who have a personal desire to work in their chosen field and have already been trained. Of more importance is the fact that well-educated people make good customers and understand the value in giving back to their communities, creating an ever improving society."

'Clearly, Canadian Tire is committed to Niagara College and our students through their very generous contributions to post-secondary education and especially in their support of technology in providing education.'
— Sylvia Kadlick

Considerable funding has been received over the years to support the Student Awards program; the Access to Opportunities program, which provided funding for lab facilities; funding scholarships, which named the Canadian Tire Technology Innovation Centre at the Welland campus; funding for the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the Welland campus, which named the Canadian Tire Automotive Shop; numerous donations of computer equipment; lead sponsorship of the Many Hands Project for five years; and the hiring of co-op students from Niagara College's technology programs.

"Clearly, Canadian Tire is committed to Niagara College and our students through their very generous contributions to post-secondary education and especially in their support of technology in providing education," says Kadlick.

The people behind Niagara College initiatives include various individuals.

Tom Gauld, president and chief operating officer at CTFSL, has chaired the college board of governors for the past four years. Alan Goddard, vice-president, corporate affairs of Canadian Tire Corporation, has served as a board of governors member for the past two years. James Ryan, the former senior vice-president, dealer relations of Canadian Tire Corporation, served on the Niagara College Foundation board of directors since 1998 and this year is chair of the board. These positions are voluntary and require many hours of time and dedication.

"Each of them believes in the goals of the college and are enthusiastic public and business ambassadors for its many initiatives and its students. In addition, the 10 Canadian Tire associate dealers throughout the Niagara region, who live and work here, support through their actions the strategy of the college to build partnerships between education and business," Kadlick says.

CTFSL and the Canadian Tire dealers are so important to the college that it's hard to imagine Niagara College being exactly what it is today without that contribution, says Bonnie Rose, Niagara College's vice-president academic.

"I would certainly start with the leadership that Tom Gauld has provided to our board of governors, but also just the partnership and the support for our Canadian Tire Technology Innovation Centre and for the Sun Microsystems Lab at the Welland campus. We wouldn't have that lab to support our students, so our computer electrical and electronics engineering students every day benefit from that partnership and from the scholarships, support and the confidence of a company that is such a fine employer — having confidence in the college really is a boost."

For the technology programs at the Welland campus, Canadian Tire's contributions have been "absolutely essential," says Rose.

"And it's not just the financial support. It's the support with the vendors and in convincing vendors that this is the place to have a showcase lab, like our Sun Microsystems Lab. Or even interest and support beyond the direct money is the association, which assists in drawing in other support."

'So down the line, as role models, as financial supporters, advisers on our committees and on our board of governors, as leaders within the college community – they've just been really an extraordinary supporter of the college.'
— Bonnie Rose

The college has had a relationship with the Canadian Tire stores in the Niagara region for "a good number of years," says Dave Spear, co-ordinator at the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the Welland campus.

'We really appreciate everything they've done for us. There is a huge sign out in our automotive shop that the Canadian Tire store owners of the Niagara region are supporting the education here, and I think that's got a lot of value in the number of people who go through the building.'
— Dave Spear

"And it's been in different aspects as far as helping them find students, helping them find co-ops and helping them find apprentices."

The stores of the Niagara region have gotten together and decided to support the college.

"They came here and we discussed a future for motive power and they have decided to support us through a financial contribution over a five-year period," says Spear. "I think that's very positive for storeowners and businessmen — that they sell a lot of products out of their stores, but they recognize that they have to support the community. They have to support the local college, and they will get their benefits from that."

The relationship is "win-win," says Spear.

"We really appreciate everything they've done for us. There is a huge sign out in our automotive shop that the Canadian Tire store-owners of the Niagara region are supporting the education here, and I think that's got a lot of value in the number of people who go through the building."

The Many Hands Project is a community-based project. "Every year our students, in collaboration with students from other programs of the college, do a one-day renovation event, usually involving around 100 volunteers. We select a non-profit organization in the community to go in and paint, do gardening, build fences, just renovation work for it," says David Veres, co-ordinator of the Special Event Management (Post-graduate) program.

Veres started the project five years ago, and the first thing he needed was a lead sponsor or someone in the business community.

"Tom Gauld was the person that we had approached at CTAL (CTFSL) and he showed great faith in myself and the college program. He said they would be our lead sponsors. They would give us $5,000 in cash. And, even though I didn't know what I was going to be doing, the type of event or what would be involved in that first year, they had the faith to say they wanted to make a commitment to the college and the community."

In addition to the $5,000, the college usually gets anywhere between 10 and 20 employees of CTFSL to come out and volunteer the day of the event to help out.

"They've been a resource for us, utilizing some of their staff that have expertise in marketing and other areas or media relations to assist us," says Veres.

The college sponsors a couple of fundraisers for the Many Hands Project each year.

"And they come out and support the fundraisers every year," says Veres. "It's great that they not only put a substantial amount of money into the project every year, but they take their commitment beyond that, and they show us their good corporate citizenship by getting involved in all levels of the project. Without CTAL (CTFSL) we wouldn't have the project."

"The Many Hands Project certainly, I think, characterizes the very best about the kind of volunteer spirit of the college community orientation," says Rose. "Canadian Tire Acceptance (Canadian Tire Financial Services) was just essential in getting that off the ground and their on-going support has just been tremendous."

They've been "very important supporters" and partners and "great role models," she says.

"For example, last year we had a faculty summit with our technology faculty and Canadian Tire Acceptance (Canadian Tire Financial Services) let us use their state of the art training facility because they thought what we were doing was important. They share their knowledge and they're leading-edge companies, so when they share their knowledge with us, that's really important to us as an organization."

Beyond their commitment to Niagara College, Canadian Tire and CTFSL are "deeply involved" in their communities, says Kadlick.

"The Canadian Tire Foundation for families is committed to assisting families in crisis and will provide fundraising and relief efforts in communities across Canada. Canadian Tire gives annual community environmental awards to projects across Canada where their stores are located and is the sponsor of Pollution Probe's annual Clear Air Commute. CTAL (CTFSL) funds a wide variety of causes, including education, health care and community projects and recently raised $180,000 in support of Niagara region charities."

"From the involvement with the Many Hands Project, to the company really encouraging its staff to participate in the community, it's just phenomenal how innovative and inspiring a group they are, and we're really fortunate, I think, as a community, to have their support. Many times through the Many Hands Project or other things, Canadian Tire Acceptance (Canadian Tire Financial Services) and Canadian Tire have helped out in the community, so they're really there for our community, and that's important," says Rose.

Niagara College is "fortunate to have the confidence and the commitment" of many businesses and individuals from those businesses, says Kadlick.

"Their understanding and support of our students and our faculty through both volunteerism and finance help to make Niagara College strong and to develop a leadership position in our chosen areas of expertise. Together we build partnerships that serve all of the citizens of the Niagara region."

'Their understanding and support of our students and our faculty through both volunteerism and finance help to make Niagara College strong and to develop a leadership position in our chosen areas of expertise. Together we build partnerships that serve all of the citizens of the Niagara region.'
— Sylvia Kadlick

Canadian Tire and Canadian Tire Financial Services Limited are some of the "best corporate citizens we have in Canada," not just in the Niagara region, says Rose.

"We're really very lucky to have such a concentration of dealers and to have Canadian Tire Acceptance (Canadian Tire Financial Services) here in the region. Niagara College is especially fortunate to have their friendship and their support for the college."

"So, down the line, as role models, as financial supporters, advisers on our committees and on our board of governors, as leaders within the college community — they've just been really an extraordinary supporter of the college," says Rose.

BRTF students receive makeup lesson

By CASSANDRA SCAPILLATI
Staff Writer

A freelance agent and makeup artist brought the elements of colour to the faces of aspiring broadcast students recently.

Kathy Rupcic, 39, of Stoney Creek, graduated from Niagara College in 1984, in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television program, which now includes film in its name (BRTF).

On Feb. 6, she shared her knowledge and expertise on applying makeup for film and the effects lighting has on makeup.

Rupcic provided advice and demonstrated the proper techniques of wearing makeup on camera for numerous students enrolled in the BRTF program.

"It's not the old technique of the past. It's refined." She explains that you enhance the image to have an impact on people who are hiring you.

Rupcic says she has an extensive background in radio broadcasting.

She landed her first job producing a talk show at a radio station in Niagara Falls and produced freelance documentaries in that area.

When her family came along, she considered the makeup profession. She had extensive experience in makeup application and has always been interested in variety.

Although her family kept her rooted, she says the smartest thing she could have done was "stayed planted."

When she went to makeup school in Toronto, she kept in touch with her television contacts. She says this was how job opportunities arose.

"If you want to be an achiever, go to Toronto." This is where she became a "singular makeup entity."

Rupcic gained additional experience teaching for about three years at a makeup school, The Luba Mera School of Aesthetics, in Burlington.

"Although the industry is becoming more sophisticated, it doesn't mean that makeup is required less. It's more refined." She adds there are always work opportunities. She says she's able to apply her television knowledge at her current job with CH Morning Live.

The show airs at 6 a.m. weekdays. Once makeup is finished, she says she sticks around for about an hour to ensure "everything looks good." When she leaves she's able to go to different jobs throughout the day.

With such a busy schedule, Rupcic reminds the broadcasting students to make sure they get their sleep.

"It's really unpredictable. You never know who's going to call." She adds, "As a freelancer, you have to be available, ready to go."

After being in the business for eight years, she says there are many pros and cons.

Kathy Rupcic demonstrates makeup techniques on Liana Attfield, 20, a second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student.

Photo by Cassandra Scapillati

A positive aspect is that "you are in control of what you do and the work that comes to you." You set the rates and have control over the look.

Rupcic advises students that "responsibility and diligence" are extremely important to being successful.

"Be bold in approaching anyone you know who is involved in the industry." She says that work comes to you by keeping in touch with your contacts.

By contrast, job security can be up and down, she says. "If you belong to a union, there are strikes. Economic times can be rough if the movie industry isn't moving. It doesn't guarantee that you are really going to grow in that skill." In a union you are not allowed to freelance work. It's not wise, she says.

As Rupcic opened her makeup case and prepared to demonstrate her techniques on two students, she discussed important tips.

She began with issues about products' "texture, colour and durability."

When applying makeup, she says, she tries to gear towards skin colour, texture, shine and any features on the face that need correction.

Shadows can be really critical, she says, adding, "It's incredible what viewers pay attention to." She says you can't ignore what needs to be changed. "That says something. People are visually charged."

As the students critique the finished look, Rupcic says they have to understand what type of image they're going for. "You're going to have to leave personal preference behind. Be sensitive." She suggests going for a flawless coverage. "Your image has to be professional and polished looking."

Support dental hygiene, buy fundraising raffle tickets

By W. COLIN GIBSON
Staff Writer

The second-year Dental Hygiene program students are having a raffle to raise $1,700 for the purchase of a portable ultrasonic scaler for the Welland Hospital Dental Clinic.

The tickets, which are $2 each or three for $5, will be sold on Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 by the cafeteria at the Welland campus. They will also be available from the dental clinic or from professor Irene Sebastianelli. Both the clinic and her office are on the third floor of the Simcoe building.

What's a raffle without prizes? First prize is a coloured pastel portrait by artist/student Rachel Greene, framed by Perfect Picture Gallery at the Seaway Mall in Welland. The prize is worth about $350. Second prize features 14 karat 0.10ct studded earrings donated by Sako Jewellery of Toronto, worth about $250. Third prize is a Swiss army watch and pocketknife set by 3M Unitek valued at $200.

All prizes have been provided through the efforts of students of the Dental Hygiene program.

The draw will occur at 3 p.m. on March 8 in the Woolcott wing of the Welland County General Hospital.

The dental hygiene students provide oral care treatment every Friday for the clients in the longterm wings of the hospital who aren't easily transportable and include the bedridden.

"The students are very keen about providing oral care to the elderly," said Sebastianelli.

The current equipment used was donated by a local dentist and includes a portable X-ray machine and a hoist. The residents receiving oral care can be in their beds or be hoisted from a wheelchair to the dentist's chair.

The portable ultra-sonic scaler removes hardened plaque, called calculus, which can't be removed by brushing.

"The most important part is we're providing oral care for those who cannot transport themselves to the dentist's office," said Sebastianelli.

The students are also providing educational services to the families of the patients (about 200 individuals) about oral care. They also provide updated in-service training to 40 to 50 staff members at the hospital about oral care.

The students are providing these services to about 135 individuals (staff and residents) at Foyer Richelieu Welland. When a resident wants dental work done, the resident sets it up with the nurses and in turn the information reaches the college.

"The staff is very helpful, but is always very busy. We try to lighten their workload. It provides very good work experience," said Sebastianelli. The families are "very happy" with the students' delicate and careful work on their elders, said Sebastianelli, adding she hopes in the future "the Dental Assistants program students can take part and be able to experience more educational experience in providing longterm care."

In January, Niagara College President Dan Patterson announced the Dental Hygiene program's students' marks exceeded U.S. and Canadian national standards.

"We have a very good reputation and faculty (for dental hygienists) at Niagara College," added Sebastianelli.

Students are always looking for new clients to visit the dental clinic. If you or anyone you know is interested in having dental work done for a low cost, call (905)735-2211, ext. 7758 and book an appointment.

Save yourself the headache, let someone else stress over your taxes

By JENNIFER PICKETT
Staff Writer

Stop fussing over your taxes. Why not let someone else do it for you?

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program will be at the Glendale campus Thursday, March 14, on the lower ground level. On Thursday, March 21, it will be held across from the financial aid office at the Welland campus. It will be operating between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The program has been offered here since 1998. Niagara College is the first college to have a tax clinic on campus.

"There are so many excuses why students don't do their income-taxes, their parents usually do it or they don't have all the papers ready," said Brigitte Chiki. "This is very convenient for students." Chiki is director of student services.

This is a community-based program designed to encourage people to complete their income tax returns. Volunteers, trained to do simple straightforward returns, assist the individuals.

The volunteers can't help you if you have the following income or expenses: rental income/losses, capital gain/losses, foreign income, support paid/received, partnership income/losses, self-employment income/losses or employment expenses.

The returns will be filed quickly and students should get a return within 10 days. If you miss the tax clinic, look for others throughout the community. For more information contact Chiki at SE104 at the Welland campus or call (905) 735-2211 extension 7783.

www.niagara-news.com

back to the pack

Quitting smokes cold turkey for the birds

By TINA LANZILLOTTA
Staff Writer

I'm back!

So maybe cold turkey isn't the best method for quitting smoking. It isn't for me anyhow.

I'm a little ashamed and a little relieved to say that I cheated. I haven't yet bought myself a full pack but my "buddy" and I have shared one together.

At first, I was extremely disappointed in myself and considered myself weak. However, when it took five days to finish smoking a pack between us, I realized that while I may not have quit for good, all hope is not lost.

The people from Leave the Pack Behind were very supportive also. When they had asked me, "How are you getting along?" I felt compelled to tell the truth and responded with an ashamed, "I cheated." Instead of a reprimand or a lecture, I was reassured that I was not a failure and that I shouldn't give up. I don't intend to.

I have decreased my smoking by more than 50 per cent, and I no longer crave cigarettes, as I did when I quit cold turkey. I am no longer miserable and I can sleep better at night. I don't feel sick or nervous all the time.

Oddly enough, now that I allow myself a few cigarettes a day, I feel more confident that I will be able to quit for good. Not in the immediate future, but soon ... in the future ... eventually. Right now, I just feel like getting reacquainted with my old friend.

Student quits Leave the Pack Behind, not smoking

By MELISSA PILON
Staff Writer

After 24 days of Leave the Pack Behind, I've quit!

I have tried Zyban. I have eaten as many gourmet suckers as my teeth will allow. I have chewed more than 100 packs of gum. I have even used that lemon-flavoured condom I found in my survival pack for an oral fixation.

Yet, nothing can compare to the smooth taste of a cigarette.

I have quit Leave the Pack Behind.

Just a few days short of a smoke-free month (with a few exceptions), I have let go of this dream of a healthier, smoke-free me.

I have enjoyed the feeling of breathing freely without complications and a puffer by my side. I have loved having an excuse to bitch and yell at people and still

have them treat me nicely because they say, "She's trying to quit smoking. Good for her." Although I'll miss these advantages, I'm just glad to be me again.

I can sleep now and I can have coffee with friends without being "socially retarded." Overall, I'm happier just being Melissa, the smoker.

Besides, who likes a quitter?

Carbon monoxide, a poisonous threat to everyone

By JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

It is colourless, odourless and poisonous to all warm-blooded animals and many other life forms.

Caroline Klus, co-ordinator of the Leave the Pack Behind program at Niagara College and a student in the Special Event Management (Post-graduate) program, gathered information on carbon monoxide (CO), a chemical compound of carbon and oxygen that is three per cent lighter than air. It is what cigarette smokers inhale.

It is a dangerous substance that affects everyone. It is most harmful to unborn babies, infants and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease.

CO can be found in home appliances fueled with natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP gas), oil, kerosene, coal or wood. These can include gas or oil furnaces, indoor pool heaters, woodstoves, fireplaces, space heaters and idling cars.

CO can become a threat when there are cracks in appliances that allow "leakage or when faulty ventilation fails to take the gas outside, pulling it into the house instead."

CO is the main gas found in cigarettes where it is "found in more than 500 times the concentration considered safe in industrial plants."

Klus, 24, says, "Carbon monoxide is a deadly poison that replaces the oxygen in red blood cells."

It can prevent absorption of oxygen and result in asphyxiation. Klus says, "By replacing oxygen with CO in our blood, our bodies poison themselves by cutting off the needed oxygen to our organs and cells causing various amounts of damage depending on exposure."

Klus says CO can be lethal in large doses.

Low levels of CO poisoning can result in flu-like symptoms. These include shortness of breath after mild exertion, mild headaches and nausea. Symptoms become more severe with higher levels of poisoning. Symptoms include severe headaches, dizziness, mental confusion, nausea, and fainting after mild exertion. High levels may cause unconsciousness and death.

In heavy smokers, up to 15 per cent of the blood may be carrying CO instead of oxygen.

You can have your CO level tested free of charge by visiting one of the Leave The Pack Behind displays on campus.

One cigarette speeds up the heartbeat, increases blood pressure, upsets flow of blood and air in your lungs and causes the temperature of your fingers and toes to drop.

"Each year 45,000 Canadians die too early because of smoking. Many more are living with crippled lungs and damaged heart."

Klus says CO is "very harmful" to an unborn baby. Chemicals in smoke are passed from mother to fetus through the placenta. This prevents the fetus from getting the nutrients and oxygen it needs to grow.

Smoking during pregnancy has been linked to premature labour and breathing problems and fatal illness among infants. It can also cause hemorrhaging during pregnancy and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

With each cigarette a woman smokes, blood flow to the placenta is reduced for about 15 minutes, says Klus, adding this causes the baby's heart rate to increase. CO in cigarette smoke reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of a fetus by 40 per cent, affecting growth rates. Babies of smoking mothers are an average size of 200 grams lighter at birth.

Klus says this makes them more likely to require life support.

Protect yourself from CO by installing a CO detector outside each bedroom, test the alarms and replace batteries on a regular basis. If the detector goes off, move everyone outside and open all windows in the home. Call the fire department to get further instructions.

For more information on CO, smoking and your health please visit the LTPB Web site:
www.leavethepackbehind.org.

Ridley fundraiser benefits Bethlehem Place

By JENNIFER PICKETT
Staff Writer

The target is $200,000 annually to help keep Bethlehem Place serving its clients and offering a second chance at dealing with what life has handed them. Fundraisers are one way to do that.

On Feb. 2, an annual fundraiser was held at Ridley College in St. Catharines at which participants could go skating at the school's rink, take a tour of the facilities, and enjoy free hot dogs, hot chocolate and donuts. A grab bag was given to participants as they left.

"It's a very popular event," said Julie Dennis, executive director of the program. This is one of many events held every year to raise money. The goal has been met every year with a lot of effort and support from the community, says Dennis. About 130 volunteers help out at the event, including a number of students.

"This is a load of work on the part of a lot of people," said Dennis. "We hope everyone just comes out to have a good time."

At one point in our life we have all said, "I'll do it differently this time around." But what if you didn't get that second chance? What if things were messed up so badly you never thought you'd get back on your feet again? The Bethlehem Place is working on giving second chances to those in desperate need of one.

The Bethlehem Projects of Niagara is a six-storey, 27-unit apartment building that provides affordable, supportable housing for people in crisis. The building is located at 58 Welland Ave. in St. Catharines. It has a capacity of about 65 people. The residents may stay up to two years and the housing income is about 30 per cent of their total income.

People who use this service are usually victims of abuse, are recovering from addictions, have physical and mental disabilities, have emotional difficulties, poverty or limited skills or are those who need to learn parenting and other life skills for daily living.

The project started in June 1986 when concerned residents of Niagara, including Outreach Niagara, local churches and the St. Catharines and Thorold Social Planning Council, decided action was needed to address these social concerns. They wanted to give singles and families looking for a place to start over a safe and supportive place to do it. They planned to put the loving one's neighbour principle into action. The first residents moved in during February 1988.

A number of services are available to those involved with the project. There are two parent and child resource centres, which have a lending library, parent education and a drop-in play place. One-on-one counselling is offered to those who don't attend one of the support groups. The groups include creative parenting without anger, positive relationships and co-dependency. There is 24-hour access to staff for crisis prevention and intervention. There is also a community support home available.

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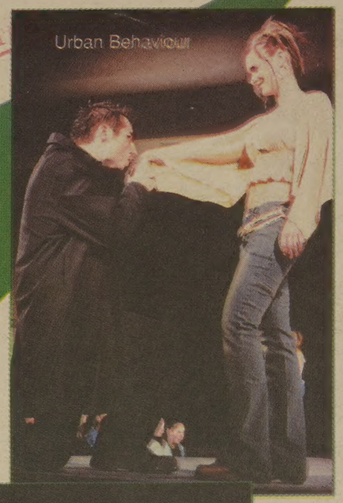
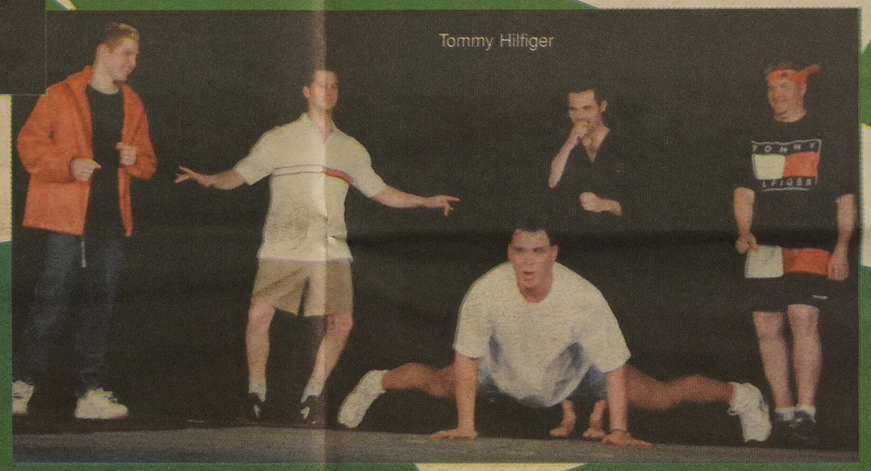
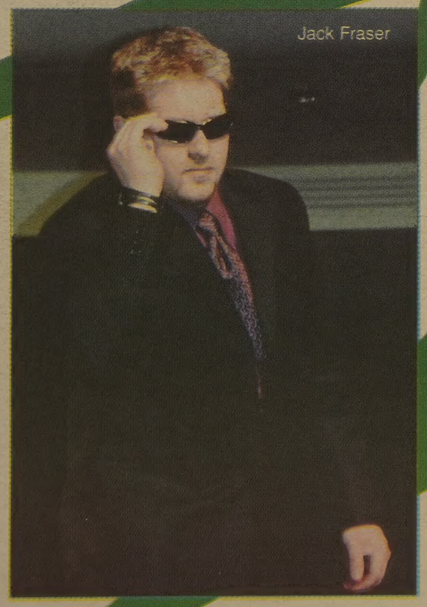
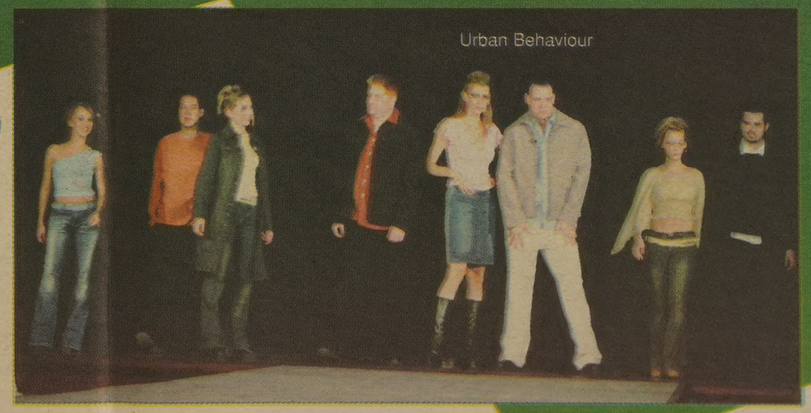








Photos by Cassandra Scapillati
&
Design by Melissa Pilon

@ career fair

Police services looking for commitment

By ERIK O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Police were everywhere.

It was Career Fair 2002 at Brock University, in St. Catharines, and with six police recruiting booths there was more security present than at an Olympic Committee press conference.

"We've been hiring at a quick pace in the last three years," says Constable David Riches, of the York Regional Police. "We're hiring between 60 and 70 officers this year."

> *'We're looking for... a well-conducted individual, education not being so important.'*
>
> *— Jacquie Simms*

The last hiring boom occurred when regional governments were formed 30 years ago, Riches says, adding there is a hiring boom now that those officers are retiring.

Compounding that, adds Riches, is the growing population all over the Greater Toronto Area.

This problem of growing population and high retirement numbers within the police force seems prevalent, as police stations from all over southern Ontario were recruiting.

The Peel Regional Police, Halton Regional Police Services, Hamilton Police Service, and the Niagara Regional Police Services recruiting unit were all present, as were the Ontario Provincial Police and York Region Police.

What could all these police services be looking for in an officer? was a common question at the booths, and Const. Jacquie Simms had the answer.

"We're looking for three things," says the energetic NRP officer. "First, we're looking for a lifetime commitment to learning. Second, we're looking for someone with a continued commitment to the community. And third, we're looking for life skills, meaning some volunteer work and (mostly) a well-conducted individual, education not being so important."

"As far as York Region goes," adds Riches, "we're looking for someone to represent our diverse community. We're looking for post-secondary education. Forty per cent of a candidate is made of personal experience and 60 per cent is made of college programs and degrees."

Constable David Riches, of the York Regional Police, says he hopes to recruit 60 to 70 officers in 2002.

Photo by Jason Romaniuk

Job exhibits range from policing to wineries

By DUSTY JACKSON
Staff Writer

Brock University in St. Catharines was bustling with job seekers and employers alike for Career Fair 2002 on Feb. 7.

More than 50 employers set up exhibits at the career fair. The roster covered a wide range of employers, from call centres to accounting firms to police services to wineries, all offering jobs in a variety of positions.

"Students are looking for co-op positions, and grads are looking for jobs ranging from IT to tech support to accounting. We have some health care services and a lot of police forces as well," said Janet Forfar, consultant, employment services, Niagara College Welland campus.

"We want people to realize that just because a company may be a retail service, they aren't only hiring for retail positions. These companies are like small cities. They hire everything from janitors to management positions. Don't make assumptions about a company. Find out what they have."

Forfar said Niagara College was there to promote its post-diploma programs.

"We're looking for on-call relief staff for group homes and open custody," said Jay Gemmel, of Banyan Community Services. The company, among other projects, operates the Peninsula Youth Centre, a juvenile detention centre on Webber Road. Gemmel said that residents of the area were not pleased to find out about the youth centre. "Nobody wants to live next to a jail, but we came in, we did a good job, and there hasn't been any problems."

Among the more prominent exhibitors was PricewaterhouseCoopers, the world's largest professional services firm. "We have 900 offices in 150 countries around the world," said Neil Corcoran, senior associate. "We're recruiting individuals with either a diploma or a business degree." Corcoran said the firm provides accounting, auditing, tax and financial advisory services to 285 companies of the Fortune 500 companies.

"We're looking for university students who want to pursue their CGA (certified general accountant) or their CMA (certified management accountant) and join Sears," said George Reid, of Sears Canada. "We're accepting resumés for other positions too, but we are mostly filling accounting positions."

CampusWorkLink.com, part of Workopolis, was at the career fair promoting its Web site. "We are the largest job site for students and recent grads," said Sharlene Moodie, CampusWorkLink.com representative. "We service everything from first-year students looking for co-op positions to graduates looking for careers up to five years after graduation."

Moodie said job seekers can do many things with CampusWorkLink.com, including posting up to 10 different resumés electronically and creating a career alert. "I'm amazed at how many people don't know how to create a career alert. You just enter key words, and then jobs with that key word in them are mailed to you every day."

Moodie said students need their institutional access code to access jobs listed on the site. The code can be obtained over the telephone with a phone number given on the site.

For help with your job search, visit the employment centres at the Welland campus in SE101, Glendale campus in W115 and at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Internship not difficult, 'if you have the dedication'

International student completes internship at Frank's Tomato Pie restaurant

By MISATO ARAI
Staff Writer

Jose George, 26, of India, says he has enjoyed his time in Canada.

George, of New Delhi, completed an eight-month Hotel Management Systems (HMS) (Post-graduate) program at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, in December 2001.

Prior to coming to Canada and Niagara College, George received a hotel management degree and a diploma in e-commerce. However, he says, he wanted to study in the HMS program at a post-graduate level.

There is an optional internship program included in the HMS program.

For his internship, he has worked at Frank's Tomato Pie restaurant in Niagara Falls since April.

JOSE GEORGE

He says he works five or six hours a day, but has worked nine hours at times in summer time.

"I basically cook and take care of various things in kitchen." There are about 40 employees in a busy shift, says George.

He has one day off every week.

Before starting his job, he says there was nothing he had to prepare. "My employer took care of everything. Thanks to Chef Exio Digimenico."

George says he received good experience through Digimenico.

He says working is not difficult, "if you have the dedication."

He never felt his English was a handicap while working, "because people are so nice," he remarks.

Although it may depend on what you do and how long you work, George says, "I suppose you can earn $1,200 easily a month," on an internship.

"Well, my goal is to do a master's of business administration (MBA) and get into a good management cadre."

He says he might go back to India after he completes his MBA at "some good university."

Zehrs manager finally experiencing 'true Canadian culture' in Welland

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

For Eyad Hindi, helping customers is just part of his daily routine as a pharmacist at Zehrs Food Plus on Niagara Street in Welland.

Hindi, 31, was born in Damascus, Syria. He studied to become a pharmacist in Syria and France. He received his bachelor of science at Damascus University and his biomedical post-graduate degree from the faculty of pharmacy at Paris VI University.

"I always had an interest in biology and chemistry," he said, adding he doesn't recall losing any marks in either subject.

With biology and chemistry combined, Hindi said pharmacy seemed like an appropriate field for him.

"I debated whether to go into pharmacy or medicine, but pharmacy suited me better."

He said going into medicine would have required at least six to nine years of schooling, depending on what kind of medicine one studies. Pharmacy is five years.

Hindi said the main aspect that attracted him to pharmacy was that it involves applying immense knowledge of medication and health issues to patient care. "I can make a positive difference in someone's life."

Hindi said he didn't consider coming to Canada to attend university. "In Syria and France, university is free, although admission is competitive." He said it would have cost him $12,000 to $13,000 a year to attend university in Canada. "I would have come out with a degree and a $100,000 debt."

After university, Hindi said, he wanted to establish himself in a country "more stable" than Syria. "I lived in a very unstable region where anything could happen at any time."

He decided to try France. "It is not a society of immigrants. It's a closed society, mostly descendents of Louis XI, not like Canada or the United States."

Hindi then emigrated to Montreal in 1995, after which he spent time in Toronto and New York City before moving to St. Catharines in 1999. He worked at the Zehrs Food Plus pharmacy there before being promoted to pharmacy manager at the Welland store last June.

"I was tired of big cities. You don't really get to experience true Canadian culture being an immigrant in a big city. It's such a cosmopolitan society, most are either recent or first generation immigrants."

He said that in smaller cities such as St. Catharines, most people were born in Canada. "It's a better example of Canadian culture."

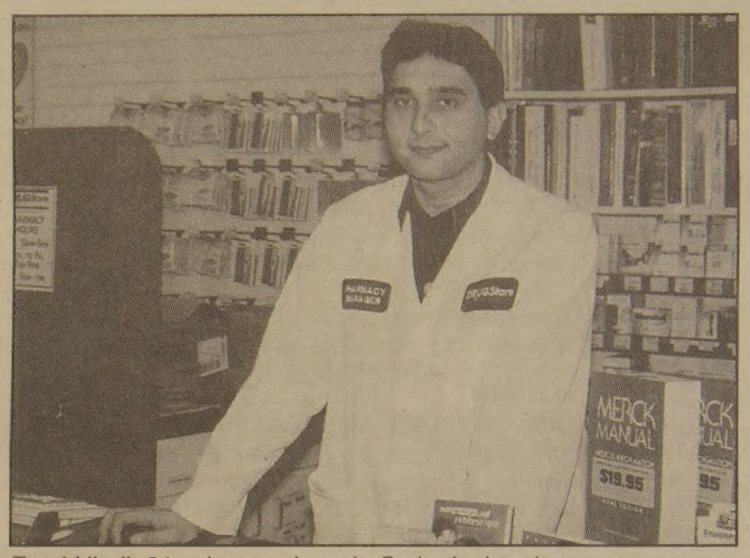
Hindi said working in larger cities' pharmacies, he noticed the problem of customers abusing medications was greater. It has been much less common at Zehrs Food Plus, where he observes more "misuse" rather than abuse of medication. Pharmacists are trained to deal with those situations professionally and legally.

Hindi's parents still live in Syria, and he has two brothers and two sisters, all living in the United States. One brother is a doctor studying to become a psychiatrist; the other is an architect. One sister is an electrical engineer; the other is a student.

Hindi said he isn't sure whether he's in St. Catharines to stay. "It depends where my career takes me."

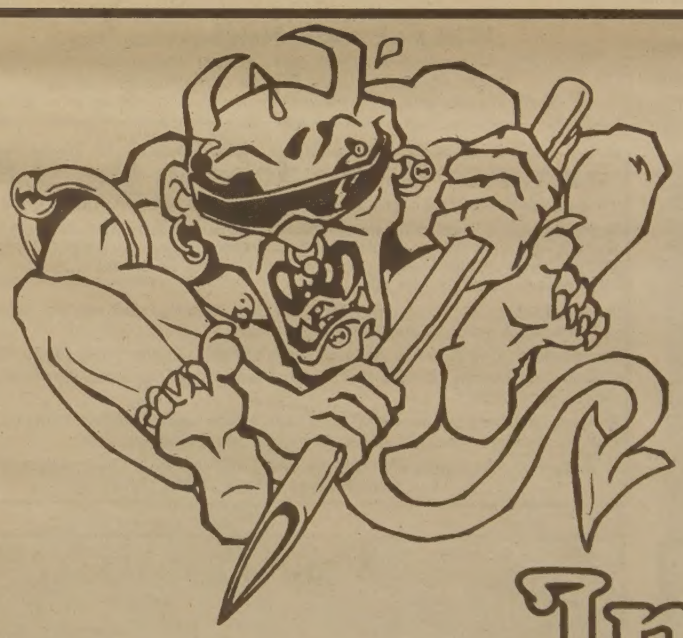
He's considering moving more toward patient care or medical research but hasn't ruled out the possibility of relocating to the United States, where he could open a medical centre with his brother.

Outside the pharmacy, Hindi said he enjoys travelling, reading, soccer, chess, leftist politics, and studying "big cats." He is fluent in English, Italian, Spanish, Arabic and German.



Eyad Hindi, 31, who was born in Syria, is the pharmacy manager at Zehrs Food Plus in Welland.

Photo by Katie MacKimmie



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Young mother 'happy to do it on my own'

Mother advises girls to find their sense of self, sense of security

By NIKKI MILLION
Staff Writer

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are grey. You'll never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.

Rebekah Blagdon, now 29, was a responsible, independent teenager ... who just happened to want to have a baby.

She recalled always wanting to have children while she was really young and said that when she became pregnant at the age of 18, she was ecstatic. "I loved it. I wanted to be pregnant."

She said she was worried about telling her parents about the pregnancy for fear they might reject her. "My mother asked me when I was going to have an abortion, but then she was OK. She gave a lecture. She was afraid that I was going to make the same mistakes she made." Blagdon says her father was supportive and gave her a big hug when she told him.

The baby's father was supportive for the first month of the pregnancy, but she says that after the reality of things kicked in, he couldn't deal with it, so he walked away from her and the baby. "I didn't care. I was happy to do it on my own."

After becoming pregnant, Blagdon went to a maternity home for young mothers where they learned how to be good mothers. "I wanted to make sure that I had the best prenatal care possible."

She says that despite the difficulty of taking care of a new baby, the most difficult aspect of raising a child doesn't start until the child begins to develop a personality, at the age of two or three. "That's when it became, like, how do you give them room to be themselves as they grow while still teaching them your opinion?"

Blagdon says because she was so young when she had children, it was difficult to give her children the values she would have liked to give them, as she was still finding her own morals and values.

She says she was insecure. "Looking back, I knew I wasn't going to get the love right back from them right away. I needed something so much to love, so when they're little you have that something to love ... that's all you can you do is love them." It's when they get older, she says, that it becomes difficult.

Labour was exciting, scary and painful, she admits. "It's that last sense of fear. You're thinking, 'Oh my god, this is really happening.' It's fear, but you're also excited because you just can't wait to see what this life is going to look like. You've felt the baby kicking, but now the real work is going to start." Blagdon says her experience was almost surreal. "It's like in a movie, when everything runs through your head."

She remembers the birth of her first child as the "most incredible feeling. All the pain went away. It was as though it wasn't even my own body. Nothing happened except her."

Just before her 20th birthday, she realized she was pregnant for the second time. She says this pregnancy came as a surprise to her. "I was so afraid, so upset. I didn't want another child."

She says she allowed her insecurities to lead her once again into a relationship she knew was wrong. Realizing she wasn't ready financially and emotionally to take care of another child, she says she booked an appointment for an abortion, but after some serious thought, she decided to have her child.

"I thought about it a lot — about whether I could be a true mother to her — and I realized that I would be doing it for all the wrong reasons. I didn't want to go through the hassle of who her father was, which wasn't fair to her. This was my responsibility."

"My Malley is my blessing in disguise," she says with a loving smile.

Blagdon admits although there were hard times being a teenage mom, she would not change her life when it comes to her children, "although I do wish certain things had had different results. I wouldn't change things because I wouldn't want to change where I am with my kids today."

She admits if she could go back in time, she would like to finish college, as well as change the pattern of her relationships. "Because of being in bad relationships, I would like to go back and change the pattern of abuse in my life before it got as far as it did."

She advises her two girls to find their sense of self and sense of security before trying to raise a child with that same sense of self. "You can't give it to them if you don't have it yourself."

Blagdon says that her experience being around teenage mothers has made her realise that most of them, including her, are really looking for a sense of belonging and love they believe a child will bring.

She concedes that being a young single mother was, and is, very difficult financially. "You have to budget for everything. It's easy when they're babies, but when they get older and in school, it's $20 for this and $30 for that."

Now that her girls are almost teenagers, she says the financial struggle is putting a burden on their self-confidence. "The kids at school make fun of them because they wear second-hand clothing. It's a burden on their room to grow that every child is entitled to have. Most kids don't understand the money thing." She says being a single mother has put too much responsibility on her kids because they are so conscious of money.

"Being a single mother is about trying to balance quality of time and quantity of time. You feel pulled in every direction. You're responsible for everything," she says quietly.

If she could offer any advice, she would tell young girls to "really stop and think about the quality of life that you can offer and the difficult decisions that you will have to make."

She also presses teenagers to make sure they "have a real sense of self" before they consider raising a child.

"I don't think that anyone realizes the amount of responsibility that comes with parenting."

Rebekah Blagdon at age 21, with her daughter Katrina, 2 1/2, and Mallory, eight months, in a photograph taken eight years ago.

Submitted photo

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It's happened.

The *Niagara News* has produced more copy than we can publish.

It's a problem **The New York Times** only wishes it had.

Sadly, the *Niagara News* will not publish again until Friday, March 15.

Before then, readers can get a sneak preview of three profiles at the newspaper's Web site: www.niagara-news.com

The profiles include an English as a Second Language faculty member, Christie Salmon, 31, of St. Catharines; Ryan McLaughlin, 24, of St. Catharines, a Journalism-Print program graduate working as a magazine editor; and Thomas F. Ryan, who invented five-pin bowling — that's right — five-pin bowling.

Again, these profiles will be published in our March 15 edition, but are available now at our Web site: www.niagara-news.com

The *Niagara News* can keep you apprised of school events like dances and shark attacks. Look for the March 15 and 22

issues produced by the second-year students

and the April 5 and 19 issues by the first-year students.

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aboriginal peoples

Playing the part in mainstream media

By GLEN WUTTUNEE
Staff Writer

The media often get it wrong in the coverage of aboriginal Canadians, says a Canadian native leader.

The aboriginal culture is "still strong," although aboriginals no longer live in teepees, says Don Kelly, a spokesperson for the Assembly of First Nations in Canada. His comments are showcased in a video called The Aboriginal Beat: Building Bridges Between First Nation Communities and The Mainstream Media. The video's production was sponsored by Huntington University, at Sudbury.

The primary message of the work is that the media, much too often, reveal only the cons of most situations involving aboriginal people. Non-native and native people must be educated about the aboriginal way of life, past and present.

"We can play any part, it seems, in the media landscape. We can be the noble savage. We can be the gangster warrior. We can be a guilt trip. We can be a pain in the rear end," said Kelly, in the video.

"It is part of our way of life to hunt and fish for food. That's what our people have been doing," said Tony Belcourt, president of the Métis Nation of Ontario. "We are not part of mainstream society and we never have been part of mainstream society."

The video was shown at a one-day conference, held at the Huntington University Social Centre on the campus of Laurentian University in Sudbury, aimed at creating a better understanding between the aboriginal community and the media.

The conference covered three main issues: media coverage of Aboriginal Peoples, aboriginal achievers and the media stereotyping of Aboriginal Peoples.

"Aboriginal Peoples are not well represented by or in the media," says a Royal Commission Report on Aboriginal Peoples, published in 1996.

"Many Canadians know aboriginal people only as noble environmentalists, angry warriors, or pitiful victims. A full picture of their humanity is simply not available in the media. Mainstream media do not reflect aboriginal realities very well, nor do they offer much space to Aboriginal Peoples to tell their own stories," says the report.

The conference's goal was to build a better understanding between Aboriginal Peoples and other Canadians.

"There are many gifts we've been given as aboriginal people," said Carol Adams, National News, In Vision News, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

"One way for me to honour those gifts I've been given is to develop them, whether they be telling stories of our people, dancing or singing," she added.

Rudy Platiel, a retired aboriginal beat reporter for the Globe and Mail, said in his years of reporting he noticed a pattern in the media coverage with violence most commonly being the story as opposed to the "real story."

Kelly spoke of the plane crash effect: when the plane lands safely, it's not a story, but when the plane crashes, it's a story.

"The media ... doesn't give you the whole picture," said Brian Aitken, chair of the Ethics Department at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont.

Aitken said he thinks it's a human trait to simplify because it makes things easier.

"I think it's really important that we, as journalists, stop and think: Am I reinforcing stereotypes?" states radio journalist Sherry Huff.

Adams spoke of the abuse in the resident schools in the 1960s and other government policies that still exist today.

Belcourt said it's "critical for us to understand the media better and for the media to understand us. Education is the key."

Understanding Canada's First Nations people

By GLEN WUTTUNEE
Staff Writer

Some Canadians don't understand the rights and privileges aboriginal Canadians have.

Canada is historically recognized as a young country that began its journey towards modern civilization because of the efforts of early European explorers. Now we know there were tribes of Indians who inhabited the wilderness before the early settlers came.

The inherent right of aboriginal self-government in Canada has been a conflicted issue for more than a century. In 1763 the British Crown presented the Royal Proclamation. The proclamation tells settlers not to interfere with or disrupt the aboriginal possession of any unceded land. It prohibited colonial governments from allocating aboriginal lands to the newcomers and ordered settlers not to trespass upon those lands unless they were made available for settlement by secessions of surrenders to the Crown through public meetings called for that purpose.

"Traditionally the way the government operated was through a democracy where every member of the community was there to vote on a issue ... now it's not like that," said Tabatha Antone, from the Oneida native tribe, a student in the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College.

The Canadian natives of today have lost pieces of their culture since the late 1700s. The native people have been robbed of their land, language, culture and pride since the first coming of the white man, according to Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada, a book published by Purich Limited of Saskatoon, Sask.

"It's not fair for assimilation of our culture," said Mike Disher, from the Longpoint native tribe, a student in the Law and Security Administration program. The aboriginal culture is slowly being rekindled by its people, as is their independence.

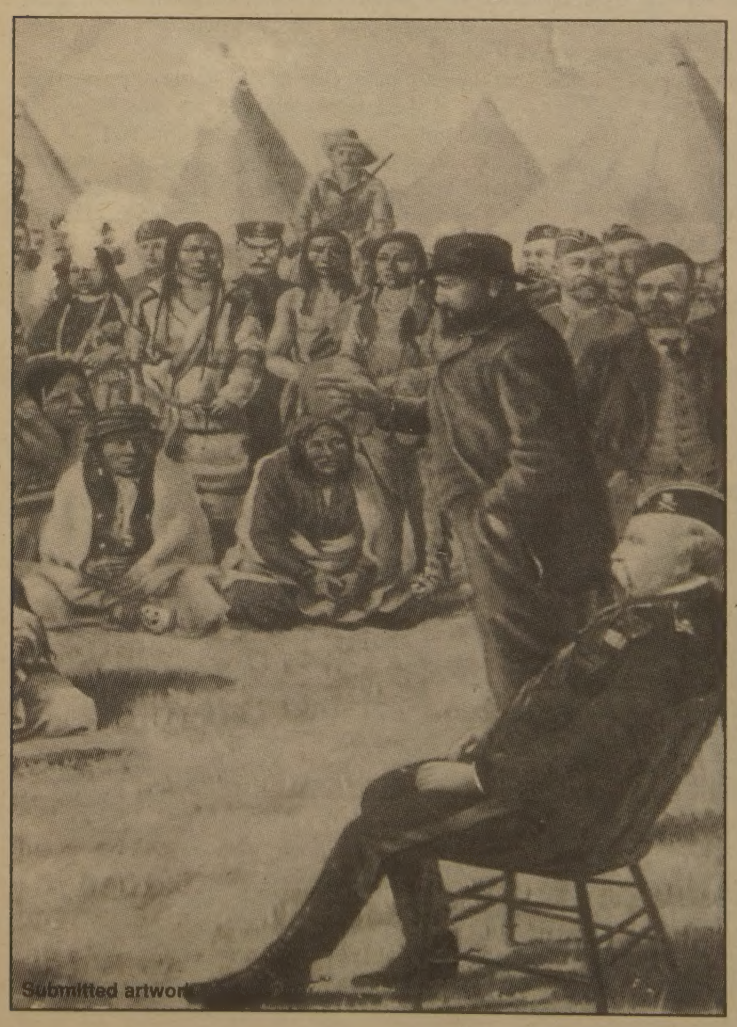
The white and native culture is a mix of two completely different worlds: one is of technology and capitalism and the other consists of nature and peace, but both strive to succeed.

Much of the aboriginal stories have been erased from the history of Canada, says the book entitled Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada. Natives are powerless to resolve the situations without a historical-political analysis of their current distress, explains the book.

"People in the mainstream of society should be more educated," said Disher.

The Royal Commission promotes mutual recognition as a means of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people living together in their communities as equals, while governing themselves in conformity with their own laws and institutions.

"People think native people have privileges beyond their rights, but they don't realize the internal circumstances," said Disher.



Submitted artwork

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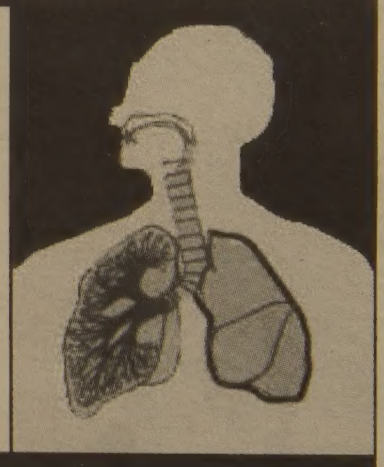

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The 'Leave The Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco Day campaign

entertainment

Night life thrives in Welland's Kave

By JENNIFER PICKETT
and JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writers

Welland got its first taste of the nightlife when The Kave opened its doors on Feb. 8.

The grand opening was held to Very Important People (VIP) members and guests only. It opened to the public on Feb. 9.

'We want a clean club.'

— Gerald Gervis

The Kave, Ramada Inn and Bench Warmers are family-run businesses. Gerald Gervis, president of GHG Entertainment, leases the building where The Kave and Bench Warmers are located, from his father. The building constructed in the 1970s still has that old-fashioned look to it with red, Spanish arches.

"So I looked at the space and the money the bank was willing to give me and thought what can I do with this place?" says Gervis, adding he decided on the nightclub and restaurant because he "looked at what was in Welland and what wasn't."

He says everyone is driving out of town to go to nightclubs. Some college students are captive here because they don't have the transportation to go to other cities, he added. "I'm giving Welland what it is lacking."

Gervis says he came up with the idea and brought it to life with the help of some contractor friends. "I told them what I wanted done. I had no plans on paper. It was just all in our heads. We just did it one day at a time."

He said his father, who had owned the place for 30 years, was "scared" of the changes. He was impressed with the sports restaurant and doesn't question anything any longer. His only worry now are the crowds. But, Gervis says he has hired the "top security" in the area. "We want a clean club."

They started building the restaurant, Bench Warmers on Nov. 1 and finished Jan. 1. Construction on The Kave began on New Year's Day. "We just finished today. Some of the paint could still be wet," laughs Gervis.

He says he wanted to open on Feb. 8 no matter what. "You have to make changes. I had wanted a waterfall behind the bar but now there are fish tanks. It all depends on the timeframe and the cost."

The club doesn't target a specific age group. There are various events on different nights of the week. Thursdays are energy radio night for the younger crowd. There will be live entertainment geared toward an older crowd. Event calendars will be available at the club.

Gervis says the club will be a "big success" because there isn't another place in the Niagara region that has a nightclub, live entertainment and a sports restaurant serving food until 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. "We don't limit ourselves to one particular age group or style of music."

'We don't limit ourselves to one particular age group or style of music.'

— Gerald Gervis

VIP cards were given to clientele that have been coming to the venue for years, family, friends and media members. VIP status can be acquired by visiting the club 12 times. You get a stamp on a card every time you pay.

VIP members, otherwise known as Kave Dwellers, and one guest, will not have to wait in line if the club isn't filled to capacity. They don't pay cover charge, and receive 10 per cent off food costs and $10 off hotel rooms for a night.

'I had wanted a waterfall behind the bar but now there are fish tanks.'

— Gerald Gervis

"You're going to know in a few months who your good customers are," says Gervis, explaining the club is also working on providing a shuttle to carry college students home, "to make sure they get back to the residence safely," says Gervis.

The club is on Niagara Street next to the Ramada Inn. The décor is something that must be seen. The restaurant is decorated with sports themes such as pictures of sports players on the wall.

The two-level club gives off a dark cave feeling, but the walls are lined with fake flaming torches and are covered in a way that makes them appear to be stone.

Marcia Ishmael, 26, from Toronto, a server at the club, says that it looks like a club in downtown Toronto.

Many laser and strobe lights illuminate the dance floor. The fish tanks behind the bar cast off a faint glow. With black light in some areas, white items will glow, including the trays that the drinks are carried on.

La Strada Cafe offers escape from daily grind

By TINA LANZILLOTTA
Staff Writer

Funky decor, local music and La Strada Cafe's warm atmosphere offer a welcome escape from the daily "grind."

Niagara College student Jeremy Vokey plays before a live audience at La Strada Cafe on Feb. 8.

Photos by Melissa Pilon

Jay, 30, and his wife, Billy Jo Santoro, 29, own the trendy cafe on Thorold Road right beside the Beer Store.

"I like the couches," says Jen Pearson, 24, of Welland. Pearson says she welcomes the change in atmosphere from the typical "Tim Hortons" like coffee shops.

Supporting local musical talent by providing them with "a place to play," on Friday nights is one aspect that gives La Strada an edge over their competition.

"The people that play for us are really talented, and play for tips," says Jay. One such musician is Jeremy Vokey, a first-year Educational Assistant — Special Needs Support student at Niagara College. The 24-year-old acoustic guitar player approached the couple a few weeks ago and has played for them twice since.

"He is unreal," says Billy. "He brings in the African drums and it's incredible. He is so amazing."

The Santoros say they want everyone to feel welcome and don't cater to any specific clientele. "We get everyone from kids to senior citizens. We get students from Notre Dame, Centennial, (high schools) and Niagara College."

'He is unreal, ... he brings in the African drums and it's incredible. He is so amazing.'

— Billy Jo Santoro

One way the couple tried to achieve this welcoming atmosphere is through the decor. It was a joint effort to decorate the coffee house when it first opened in June 1999.

"We got a bank loan, borrowed some money and went shopping," says Jay. Warm earth tones, candles on every table, interesting light fixtures, and an eclectic mix of artwork, make the place "unique."

The couple says the first year of owning and operating the business is the hardest. "It takes about a year to make any headway or to see any profit," says, Billy adding, "but that's about average for any restaurant."

Although they are pleased with the results, nothing is final. Plans are already underway for future renovations. Such plans include "sprucing up the patio" with a Plexiglas roof so that customers can enjoy the fresh air even when it's raining.

Last July, La Strada received its liquor license and the couple plan to add an evening "munchie menu" to better serve their customers. "Right now we serve basically soup, salads and sandwiches. We want to add finger foods to the menu," says Jay.

The cafe is open six days of the week. They are closed on Mondays to retain some "sanity," says Jay. The staff consists of just the two. "I put in about 15 hours of work a day," says Jay.

'We get everyone from kids to senior citizens.'

— Jay Santoro

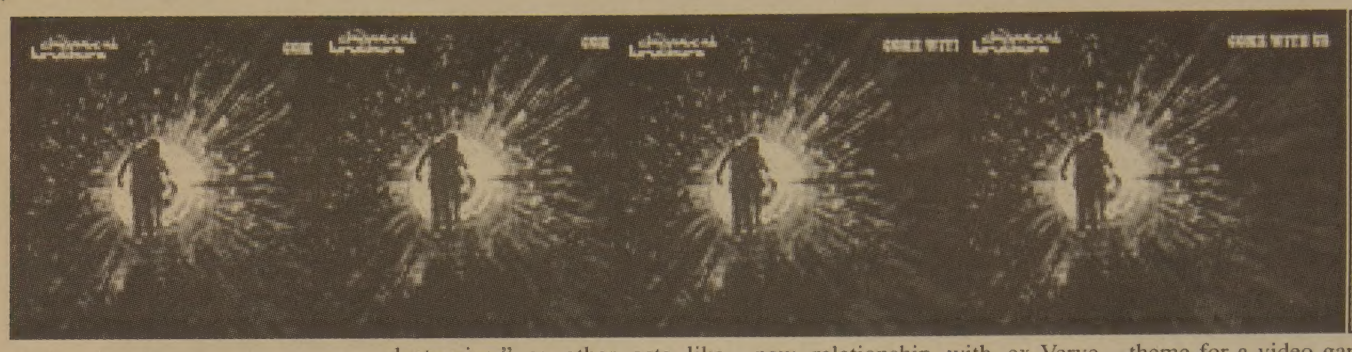
During the day Billy works as an assistant dental hygienist at Dr. Ronald Markulin's office but comes straight to the cafe after work until it closes.

Now that they are more financially stable, the situation will change, says the couple, who are looking to add to the La Strada family by hiring some daytime staff.

Despite the long hours and hard work, the couple describes it as a labour of love.

"I think it is kind of unique," says Jay, "there really isn't any other place like this around here."

CD reviews



Chemical Brothers Come With Us Review

By Aaron Foster

Staff Writer

They invade your dreams, they break all musical boundaries and, as hard as you tried to hate the Chemical Brothers, their music always left a mark somewhere within your soul.

Absent from the music scene for some time now, the block-rocking duo of Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons have resurfaced from obscurity. The result: their fifth studio album, entitled **Come With Us.**

The Jan. 29 release puts these boys back on top as "the kings of electronica," as other acts like Prodigy and Portishead are lost at sea from making the familiar encapsulating trance music for which they've been known.

Chemical Brothers' 1999 album, **Surrender**, showed Rowlands and Simons opting out of their familiar "hip-hop meets disco treatments" to collaborate with Noel Gallagher (Oasis), Hope Sandoval (Mazzy Star) and Beth Orton. The result was not only daring but also refreshing to the ears. Although they return to their original explosive dance-floor sound, they renew ties with Orton and begin a new relationship with ex-Verve bandleader Richard Ashcroft.

Star Guitar, which is the twosome's first single from **Come With Us**, is a repetitive loop-filled adventure. It begins with handclaps and orchestral noises before turning into a freakish, bombastic rave-piece reminiscent of Underworld's *Born Slippy*.

Galaxy Bounce takes on a more funky approach than the previous tracks on the album and gives us a first glance into the scratching techniques they've been known for.

My Elastic Eye begins like a theme for a video game and continues that way for the majority of the track. At about the two-minute mark of this song, it sounds as though you've found the magic whistle in Super Mario Bros. 3 and are taking it for another dive into the ocean.

The State We're In shows the first collaboration of the album at track seven, with Orton singing her usual sensual way. The song takes on many different stylistic shapes, ranging from shadowy to sexy. The Brothers use robot noises and jungle beats to help provide a solid backdrop for Orton's multi-tracked vocals.

Pioneer Skies is by far the standout track on the album. Sounding like a Beatle's throwaway from the Sgt. Pepper era, it begins with a lullaby theme in the same vein as *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*. Shreds of stars are scattered across the atmosphere as this song picks up and bursts into ambient surroundings. Just as you wake up from the state this song's put you in, you've realised the Chemical Brothers have won again with **Come With Us** and left an impression into your mind, body and soul.

Puddle Of Mudd Come Clean Review

By Deryk Stevens

Staff Writer

Come Clean is the debut album by the most recent band to come out of Kansas City, Mo., Puddle of Mudd.

The well-exposed first single, *Control*, is what caught everybody's attention, as did the second single, blurry. *Control* is one of the slower, more melodic songs on the album but it's a good one. The song is about the lead singer's son and ex-wife.

Singer/guitarist Wes Scantlin, guitarist Paul Phillips, drummer Greg Upchurch and bassist Doug Ardito are a rock band that's too heavy to be grunge but not heavy enough to be metal. At times, in almost every song, Scantlin's voice sounds a lot like Kurt Cobain's.

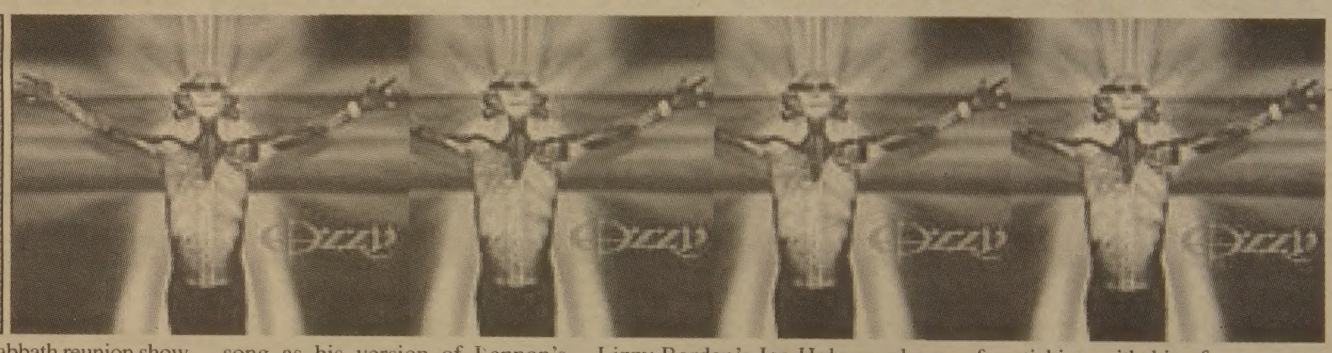
Scantlin says the song *Control* is about a "particularly intense past relationship." Blurry, the band's second single, is a good song and is the most melodic of them all.

Piss It all Away, *Bring Me Down*, *Drift and Die*, and *Said* are all great songs.

Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst signed the band to his Flawless Records label, after Scantlin sneaked back stage at a Bizkit show and gave a demo to one of Durst's bodyguards.

Ozzy Ozbourne Down To Earth Review

By Deryk Stevens



Staff Writer

Down to Earth is Ozzy Osbourne's first solo album in six years and after listening to it you'll agree it was worth the wait.

Between **Ozzmosis**, which is the last solo album he released, and the new one, he has released **Reunion**, the live Black Sabbath reunion show. Osbourne then released a greatest hits album called **The Ozzman Cometh**, along with a few Ozzfest live albums.

Dreamer is the ballad of the album. It is a really good song, and brings out Osbourne's English accent. Osbourne describes the song as his version of Lennon's *Imagine*, in Guitar World magazine.

Down to Earth was made mainly by other musicians contributing songs and sending them to Osbourne. Some of the artists who contributed are Foreigner's Mick Jones, Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl, Lizzy Borden's Joe Holmes, along with members of the Offspring.

Although other artists submitted the songs, the album still sounds like a typical Osbourne album, with mostly dark lyrics and a few too many solos.

The song *Gets Me Through* was written for his fans, thanking them for sticking with him for so many years.

Other songs worth listening to are *Junkie*, *Running Out of Time*, and *That I Never Had*.

If you are into Osbourne, then you will most likely enjoy the album, and, if not, this album won't change your mind.

Faith Evans Faithful Review

By Christene Wilde

Staff Writer

Faith Evans' album **Faithfully** is a great collaboration to show her talent vocally and lyrically.

Evans, 28, of Newark, N.J., co-wrote all but two of the songs on this 18-track album. She is a talented singer and writer. Her unique rhythm and blues (R&B) sound includes a jazzy hip-hop sound that makes her music unique and her voice distinct. This album is full of songs based on love, relationships and faith.

Evans's song *I'll Be Missing You* is the most recognizable one by her. This was inspired by the death of her husband, Nortious B.I.G.

Bad Boy Entertainment Inc. and President/CEO Sean "Puffy" Combs signed Evans. Combs, who performs on Faithfully vocally and lyrically, has said that he musically believes in her.

Evans influences include jazz, gospel, R&B and her mother. Her work doesn't just include the work she did on her own but also she has worked for Pebbles, Color Me Badd and Mary J Blige as a writer and back-up vocalist.

cinema scope

Film evolves into 2-hour X-files episode

By GARY EDGAR
Staff Writer

After a hectic Christmas movie season, the dregs of the industry are emerging like cockroaches after some Hollywood apocalypse.

Movies like Slackers, State Troopers and Britney's adventures into movie making: Crossroads are infecting a movie theatre near you to accompany truly moving titles like Snowdogs.

However, in a somewhat stale environment, Hollywood has managed to produce an eerie suspense film in The Mothman Prophecies.

From director Mark Pellington (Single Video Theory, Arlington Road) comes the retelling of the true story of a small West Virginian town plagued by the unexplained sightings of a dark specter.

The film stars Richard Gere as a Washington Post newspaper reporter whose life is turned upside down when his wife, played by Debra Messing, is seriously injured in a car accident. She claims she saw something mysterious that drove her off the road.

After a slow, and rather unproductive, 30 minutes, the movie begins to pick up as Gere mysteriously finds himself in Point Pleasant and right in the middle of a town struck very recently by bizarre occurrences.

The movie then begins to turn into an X-files episode as Gere teams up with the town's skeptical sheriff (Laura Linney), and the two start investigating the sightings.

Director Pellington, obviously a big fan of symbolism, reintroduces inkblot style images throughout the film, sometimes to the point of distraction. Although at times it works to great effect, the key would seem to be, ahem, moderation.

The movie is effective in creating a tense, suspenseful feeling, à la Sixth Sense, and has a sturdy cast in Gere and Linney. The problems, however, lie with the director's odd cuts and his obsession with closeups. It seems as if Pellington didn't have enough faith in the story and his actors to pull off the emotion and mood.

In spite of these things, the movie accomplishes its main premise: to keep you intrigued and on the edge of your seat for the better part of the two hours, with an exciting twist ending to boot.

http://www.spe.sony.com/movies/mothman/

Beautiful Mind, heartwarming true story

By VICKI SWANTON
Staff Writer

http://www.abeautifulmind.com/

Moviegoers who are looking for a well-written, well-acted movie should see A Beautiful Mind. The new movie from director Ron Howard is based on the true-life story of John Forbes Nash Jr.

Academy Award winning actor Russell Crowe plays Nash, a Nobel Prize winner who struggles through most of his adult life with schizophrenia. John is first introduced to the audience as a mathematical genius attending Princeton University in 1947. Although he is brilliant, his peers ridicule him for his lack of social skills and charm.

While at Princeton, he shares a room with Charles (Paul Bettany). During this time he meets one of his students, Alicia (Jennifer Connelly), with whom he ends up falling in love and marrying.

Throughout this time, Nash is doing top secret code-breaking work for William Parcher (Ed Harris). Nash's world soon starts to come apart, though, as Nash is plagued by paranoid schizophrenia. He is taken to a mental hospital where he's diagnosed with an advanced case of the disease.

Although the movie is a little hard to follow at times, it's well worth the money, as the acting is outstanding. You leave the theatre with an appreciation for the adaptation of a biographical book for the screen.

http://www.abeautifulmind.com/

Hartnett stands out as strong, independent leader

By KAREN WALKER
Staff Writer

Jerry Bruckheimer returns as producer in another soon-to-be war blockbuster hit, Black Hawk Down.

There hasn't been a recent movie of its kind focused on trying to show the audience real soldiers in a real war.

The movie is based on the true story of American soldiers in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993, as part of a United Nations' peacekeeping operation. The soldiers are given a mission to capture two of Somalia warlord Mohammed Farrah Aidid's top lieutenants to force him to send relief supplies to the desperate starving people in his country.

What was supposed to be an easy mission turns into a deadly battle. Everything possible goes wrong for the soldiers trapped in Mogadishu, where citizens are armed with unbelievable weapons of mass destruction.

Famine and civil wars are the norm in Somalia, so it's easy to see how this country's peoples became desperate.

Bruckheimer recently produced the summer blockbuster of 2001, Pearl Harbor. Black Hawk Down is all about war rather than the long, love story in Pearl Harbor, which took away much of the war's brutality.

http://www.apple.com/trailers/columbia/black_hawk_down/

Black Hawk Down offers an all-star cast, including Josh Hartnett, Tom Sizemore, Ewan McGregor, Sam Shepard, Eric Bena and Jeremy Piven.

It's hard to become interested in just one character throughout the movie because there are so many, but it doesn't matter. You are too intrigued anticipating when the next explosion will happen.

Hartnett plays character Mark Bowden and settles nicely into his American soldier role. Hartnett played the same role in Pearl Harbor, but with this character, he has a stand-out role as a stronger, independent leader.

There are numerous powerful scenes in this movie, including the shooting down of the first Black Hawk helicopter. In what seems like interminable minutes, it finally crashes to the ground. Some of its men survive but are now prey for the hungry Somalians already fighting on the ground.

The battle scenes are impressive, with ear-piercing bangs and constant gunfire, as soldiers and Somalians and many innocents who lived in the city are shot dead on the streets, left to die. Throughout the movie, the American soldiers' mission motto is "Leave no man behind" as they'll risk their own lives to save their fellow soldiers'.

This over two-hour film is filled with blood, tears, bullets and heroes. Together they combine to get the point across as to what had to be done.

This movie comes out during a time when there are many soldiers, from all over the world, fighting in Afghanistan. They go as peacekeepers, but sometimes have to fight a war that never should never have begun.

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sports

Knights feast on Panthers

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

The members of the Niagara Knights women's volleyball team used their game against Canadore's Panthers as an opportunity to sharpen their teeth on a weak opposition.

Coming into Friday's games against the Canadore Panthers, of Canadore College in North Bay, the Niagara Knights women's volleyball team was aggressively moving up in the standings while the Panthers were alone in the West Region Division basement.

The Knights should have played better in the first two games but instead were reduced to fighting for their wins. They improved from a close second game to sweep all three games from the Panthers (25-18, 25-22, 25-14).

Capitalizing on a much smaller team in height, the Knights had the ability to use a lot of players from their bench. Although the lead went back and forth between the teams, the Knights controlled the ball soundly. Often, the Knights had the time to make three hits on the ball and set up their plays on offence.

Loss of concentration did cost the women points in the match but that wasn't a concern.

"You can afford to have mental lapses (in a game like this). These (games) are almost givens," says Knights' assistant coach Julie Wiersma.

After a loss that broke their five-game winning streak, to the St. Clair Saints, of St. Clair College in Windsor, the Knights were shaken. The loss made the Knights "dig deeper" and strive to progress, says Wiersma.

The Knights are satisfied with the two points in the standings but are already focusing on the competition ahead, says Wiersma, adding, "Our biggest hurdle is Nipissing."

Knights standouts...

*Vicki Smith (Middle position): four kills, one block, one ace

*Thais Aun (Left/Right side): four kills, one block, two aces

*Ginni Llord (Left/Right side): 11 kills, one block, three aces

The Niagara Knights women's volleyball team had no trouble defeating the Canadore Panthers last weekend. The Knights used their height as an advantage to sweep all three games.

Photo by Rob Luciani

OCAA Volleyball Standings

Women's Volleyball Standings
West Region Division

Team	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
Mohawk Mountaineers	13	12	1	37	9	24
Nipissing Lakers	12	10	2	34	8	20
Niagara Knights	11	7	4	24	18	14
St. Clair Saints	12	7	5	25	21	14
Redeemer Royals	12	5	7	17	27	10
Sault Cougars	12	3	9	16	31	6
Lampton Lions	13	3	10	17	33	6
Canadore Panthers	13	2	11	14	37	4

Standing Abbreviations: MP (Matches Played); MW (Matches Won); ML (Matches Lost); GW (Games Won); GL (Games Lost); PTS (Points)
*Standings as of Wednesday, Feb. 13.
*Standings courtesy of *www.ocaa.com*

Women's Volleyball future games:
Feb. 15 - Niagara at Canadore College ... 6 p.m.
Feb. 16 - Niagara at Nipissing University ... 1 p.m.
Feb. 19 - Redeemer College at Niagara ... 6 p.m.

Men's Volleyball Standings
West Region Division

Team	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
Redeemer Royals	13	10	3	32	19	20
Niagara Knights	12	9	3	33	14	18
Nipissing Lakers	14	8	6	29	24	16
St. Clair Saints	14	7	7	27	28	14
Mohawk Mountaineers	12	4	8	20	27	8
Canadore Panthers	13	1	12	9	38	2

Standing Abbreviations: MP (Matches Played); MW (Matches Won); ML (Matches Lost); GW (Games Won); GL (Games Lost); PTS (Points)
*Standings as of Wednesday, Feb. 13.
*Standings courtesy of *www.ocaa.com*

Men's Volleyball future games:
Feb. 15 - Niagara at Canadore College ... 8 p.m.
Feb. 16 - Niagara at Nipissing University ... 3 p.m.
Feb. 19 - Redeemer College at Niagara ... 8 p.m.

Knights win series to remain second in West

Knights follow up shaky start with solid performance in two-game series

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

It was a match both teams won and both teams lost.

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team defeated the Canadore Panthers 3-1 (25-18, 25-20, 22-25, 25-23) in the first of two consecutive matches, but also lost some of their identity.

Coming into the first match on Friday, the Panthers, of Canadore College in North Bay were last in the West Region Division with one win in 11 games. Niagara should have made short work of the Panthers in their own backyard.

Now they'll most likely remember their road game at Niagara as their biggest game won – but match lost – of the season.

The Knights' warm up drills before the game were intense enough to grab the crowd's full attention, but the match had fans and puzzled players shaking their heads in frustration at moments.

It should have been a sign of the Knights' misfortunes when, in the first play of the game, they were penalized with a lift. As leads exchanged in the first game, Niagara's positioning never gave the Panthers a chance to win easy points.

The attention given 6'6" middle Justin Ross's spike at the start of the second game was overshadowed by the Knights' foul troubles.

The match official gave the Knights a yellow card after an argument over a point called back against them. Graeme Gaunt, a 6'3" power, was called for supposedly making contact with a ball clearly out of bounds.

The combination of unforced errors and untimely fouls gave the Panthers the edge in the third game, but determination on the side of the Knights proved too strong an obstacle to overcome.

Meanwhile, the second match on Saturday was a different story.

The Knights' play was more relaxed and dictated the tempo. By the third game, the Knights put the match on cruise control and tallied another two points in the standings.

The final score was three games to none (25-16, 25-17, 25-22).

Every Knight rotated in, giving the starters a chance to play cheerleaders and avoiding any late season injuries.

In the big picture, the Knights should be satisfied with the wins, giving their starters some rest and bench players more experience for next season.

However, clearly some fine-tuning is in order by the time playoffs begin.

The wins improve the Knights' standing to 18 points in the regular season with nine wins and three losses. The series against Canadore was the third match played by the Knights in five days. The Knights won all three matches.

The Knights journey north next weekend for back to back matches. The first – yet again – against the Panthers at their school followed by a match against the Nipissing Lakers of Nipissing University in North Bay.

Josh Gunnell, a 6'4" power forward, launches himself for a kill against the Canadore Panthers. The Knights won both matches last weekend to remain second in the West Region division standings.

Photo by Rob Luciani

Niagara College's Jason Pulver (No. 33) goes up for a rebound, while Levar Morgan (No. 34) backs him up at a Feb. 6 game against Toronto's George Brown College. The college's men's basketball team defeated George Brown. Niagara plays Toronto's Humber College on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Niagara's gym. Niagara College will host the provincial championships March 7 to March 9.

Photo by Jason Romaniuk

Zone coverage key to winning

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's soccer team put up a valiant effort in its first tournament of the indoor soccer season.

The George Brown Invitational Tournament, which took place on Feb. 9 in Toronto, saw Niagara win one out of four games.

The Knights fought through injuries and inexperience to come through the tournament with much to look forward to.

The first game against Kitchener's Conestoga College alumni team was a mismatch as the alumni team had players in their late 20s and early 30s. The final score of 8-0 showed the Knights' inexperience as they had played together for only about four weeks, whereas the alumni team has played together for about four years.

The second and third games left the Knights scoreless again against George Brown College and Ryerson University, both of Toronto.

In their final game, the Knights were victorious with a 3-2 win over Peterborough's Sir Sandford Fleming College.

Goals were scored by Tara Roszell, 20, of Orillia, Kristy Holness, 24, of Oakville, and Jodi Vezina, 22, of Welland.

Coach Louie DiLorenzo, of St. Catharines, says the women played well but, "as the tournament progressed, we improved at the end. We had many injuries and lack of work commitments that didn't help us at all."

From back left to right, Coach Louie DiLorenzo, Katie Meidinger, Krysty Holness, Tara Roszell, Christina Colli, assistant coach Wally Bounicky. From front left to right, Allison MacKinnon, Jodi Vezina, Jennifer Elliott, Ashleigh Vink, Joanne Logtin. Missing are Carly Tweedie, Dana MacDonald and Annie Schaefer.

Photo by Aaron Foster

DiLorenzo says they have to work on a few things for a tournament next Saturday at Oakville's Sheridan College. "Next tournament we have to cover our own zone better. Our defensive coverage wasn't great and we lacked that in the first tournament but we should have all our players ready."

Captain Katie Meidinger, 18, of London, says the team started "off shaky" and it didn't have the needed confidence. "The refereeing was against us and we're coming together as a team. We're a little bit out of shape but we should get better, so our next tournament should be a bigger improvement."

Meidinger says the Knights are looking forward to the next tournament and although a young team, tournaments like the George Brown Invitational "will help them gain experience to build a stronger team for the future."

A profile of the men's indoor soccer team is slated for the next issue of *Niagara News*.

Pairs team 'robbed' of gold

By KAREN WALKER
Staff Writer
Column

We were robbed. Plain and simple.

In a sport that's been plagued with unfair and biased judging since the day I started watching it, I couldn't believe what I saw unfold on Feb. 11.

Our Canadian pairs figure skating team – David Pelletier, of Sayabec, Que. and Jamie Salé, of Red Deer, Alta. – performed a flawless long program at the Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, winning the silver medal.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am excited to see our country's athletes win a medal, but it was hard to stomach the fact that the Russian team of Anton Sikharulidze and Elena Berezhnaya won a gold medal when they clearly made mistakes.

Technically, Canada won in the competition, but the Russians beat us in the artistic aspect. How? I don't know. Pelletier and Salé, who performed to the music of *Love Story*, have never lost artistically to anyone in any competition. This makes me wonder.

After Salé took a hit from a collision with Sikharulidze in practice, chances looked slim, yet she went out and skated the performance of her life, as could be seen by the crowd, cheering in a standing ovation at the end of the performance.

I thought it was a sealed deal. Everyone did, including the pair who skated with everything they had.

When the marks came up and we had lost by 5-4 judging, I was appalled. The crowd was more so, as boos filled the arena. So were the sports commentators, as comments of "It's embarrassing for the sport" or "That is just wrong" came from the television announcers.

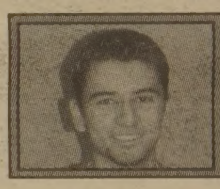
I began to think of who the judges were. Judges from Poland and China had made their marks as a tie. There is no tie in figure skating. It's plain and simple to see two pairs skate and determine who is better.

It was Russia's 11th gold medal in pairs skating yet the pair who won didn't show any emotion over winning first place. They, too, knew the judging was ridiculous.

If I were to ever win a gold medal, I would want to win because I was the best. The Russians knew they made mistakes and weren't the best, so the win was not enjoyable.

As Canadians, we can't help but be proud. We won a silver medal in a sport dominated by history and truly showed the world that no matter what colour we came out with, we have the gold in our hearts.

Hockey still 'our game'?



By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer
Column

If the Canadian men's ice hockey team doesn't win gold at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, it will be a national wake-up call.

Canada's passion for hockey will never die.

However, when was the last time a Canadian men's national hockey team has done anything significant at a venue as important as the Olympics?

It has been half a century since Canada has won a gold medal in Olympic men's hockey (1952 in Oslo to be exact). Those were the pinnacle days for Canadians and Olympic ice hockey. Including the Winter Games in Olso, Canada had won the gold medal in men's ice hockey six times in seven consecutive Olympic games.

Although they have other accomplishments along the way (a silver medal at the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer and World Junior Hockey Championships), those just don't cut it with a country which sets such high standards for their "national sport."

If this trend continues, how can we possibly call hockey "our game?" It now might as well be known as the game we invented but others perfected.

A gold medal is way overdue.

When Canada plays for the first time in the Final Round of action on Feb. 15 against Sweden, most Canadians will be cheering. It's a given to support your country whenever the need presents itself. If they come up short again other years past, the loss will be a bitter pill to swallow.

The real losers, however, as in in this whole situation are the amateur athletes – the true Olympic athletes. Their dedication and accomplishments for these games will likely be ignored while most Canadians – particularly the media – will have their eyes glued to what the men's hockey team does.

As professionals, the members of the men's hockey team are athletes who missed the opening ceremonies because they were occupied. A job is a job, but where do your priorities lie when you won't even represent your country and fellow Canadian teammates by walking into the opening ceremonies when the whole world is watching?

Are a couple of National Hockey League games really as important as the Olympics?

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AS SEEN BY

du Maurier ARTS

Food, jazz, romance all at Venice Café, Ristorante

By ERIK O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

As sporadic life may be, so is Jazz, and it soothes me.

As well as James Bond and his tuxedo suit each other, so do jazz and fine dining. There is no better a place in Welland to enjoy such a combination than The Venice Café and Ristorante.

Apart from being shuffled around at the rate of a buffalo herd, I found the seating arrangement rather quaintly arousing. The restaurant's small size, about 10 tables, added significantly to the already romantic atmosphere.

Positioned by the door was the band, consisting of two members playing jazz from their hearts, sending shivers down my spine that I hadn't felt since my time in Montreal at Charlie Biddle's Jazz Club, Charlie Biddle being the man who brought the International Jazz Festival to Montreal.

Those playing from their hearts were Dan Kozar, on guitar, and Steve Pettit, on trumpet. Kozar's ever-changing melody had me staring in such a fashion that had it been a member of the opposite sex, I would most certainly have had a drink poured on my lap.

I lost myself in this melody when the bopping began. Softly entering, and blowing with such grace, Pettit must have made the gods of wind and breeze jealous.

As the music continued, the food, previously ordered, had arrived, and to my amazement took only 20 minutes.

A pizza, the likes of which my girlfriend and I had never seen, sat steaming in front of us. I sat with Laura Vezina, a first-year Education Assistant-Special Needs Support program student at the college. We agreed upon the strangeness and good taste of the pie. "It was unlike anything I've (previously) had," says Vezina.

The pizza was made with a plum tomato sauce, making it very sweet, and the cheese and field mushrooms added quite tantalizing flavours. The 20-year-old Vezina says the pizza was "very" good. I enjoyed the sweet tasting sauce."

"I don't know of any other place in Welland where you can watch your pizza cook," adds Vezina, referring to the wood stove that sits within view of every table.

The jazz continued to blow me away throughout the course of our meal. Some say jazz soothes the soul. I say it does more than that; it soothes the digestive process.

Jazz music creates the perfect accompaniment to the perfect meal.

Vezina, who says she doesn't normally listen to jazz, commented on how relaxing it was, adding, "They (the musicians) were very into their music."

They were into their music, I was into their music, and so will you be. Make a reservation and dine fine. The Venice Café and Ristorante is at the corner of First Avenue and Woodlawn Road.

Nancy Corupe, 32, third from left, is the recipient of the General Motors Canadian Auto Workers Equity Union scholarship award. The Tool and Die program student, from Port Colborne, won the honour last November. On hand for the presentation at the Glendale campus of Niagara College, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, were, from left, Susan Kyle, co-ordinator of Precision Metal Trades, Alex Latham, employment equity representative of General Motors (GM) of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), Henry Dyck, (GM) employment equity representative, Roxanne Reles, GM female employment equity representative and Julie Bartfai, employment equity representative of CAW. The scholarship provides financial assistance for a female student entering a trade or technology program.
Photo by Glen Wuttunee

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